

Sayeh expects to return home soon

AMMAN (R) — The speaker of the Palestinian parliament-in-exile plans to return and settle in Arab Jerusalem soon, ending 27 years in exile, his relatives said on Sunday. Sheikh Abdul Hameed Al Sayeh, 85, who gave his resignation to Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat last year to protest against the Israeli-PLO self-rule deal, was the first Palestinian expelled by Israel to Jordan in 1967 for "resistance activities." His resignation, however, has to be endorsed by a full meeting of the Palestinian National Council (PNC). It last met in Algiers in 1988. Sheikh Sayeh, a nationalist leader widely respected by Palestinians, has not set a date for his return to Arab Jerusalem. "Sheikh Sayeh will go back soon," a relative said, adding that he had received clearance to return from both Israel and the Palestinian National Authority running self-rule in Gaza and Jericho.

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published by the Jordan Press Foundation
جوردان تايمز يومية سياسية مستقلة عن المؤسسة الصحفية الأردنية، الرأي

German governors beat off challenge

BONN (AP) — Two strong governors — one from Chancellor Helmut Kohl's party and the other an opposition Social Democrat — flattened the competition in state elections Sunday in eastern Germany. Kurt Biedenkopf of Saxony and Manfred Stolpe of Brandenburg each won more than 50 per cent of the vote, according to exit polls. Mr. Biedenkopf is a leader of Mr. Kohl's Christian Democratic Union, and Mr. Stolpe is from the Liberal Social Democrats. The former East German communists of the Party of Democratic Socialism, or PDS, won about 18 per cent in Brandenburg and 15 per cent in Saxony, according to the polls conducted by the Infas institute. The result placed the PDS third in both states. The Free Democrats, junior coalition partners in Mr. Kohl's federal coalition, did not win the five per cent necessary to return to the legislature of either state, according to Infas. The pro-business Free Democrats were earlier voted out of the state legislatures of Hamburg, Saxony-Anhalt and Lower Saxony.

Volume 18 Number 5712

AMMAN MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 1994, RABI' ALTHANI 6, 1415

Price: Jordan 150 Fils

Christopher: Haiti diplomatic bids over

WASHINGTON (R) — U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher said Sunday the United States has "exhausted" all diplomatic efforts to oust the military regime in Haiti, hinting that an invasion is getting closer. "There comes a time when we have to use military force and President Clinton will explain carefully and fully to the American people what the reasons are and I hope and believe we will have their support at that point, if it comes to that," Mr. Christopher said on NBC television's "Meet the Press" programme. "We have exhausted every diplomatic endeavour," (see inside for related story).

'Israel proposed to assassinate Khomeini'

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Israel proposed in 1985 to assassinate Iran's Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini but was rebuffed by Washington, a security aide to former U.S. President Ronald Reagan says in a new book. The book by former National Security Adviser Robert McFarlane said an Israeli foreign ministry official proposed poisoning the Iranian spiritual leader in an effort to help moderates in Tehran, the Washington Post reported. The book, "Special Trust," says the Israeli official, David Kimche, made the proposal at a meeting July 3, 1985. Mr. McFarlane wrote that he told Mr. Kimche that the U.S. government would not participate in any assassination.

Guatemala to move embassy to Jerusalem

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AFP) — Guatemala is to transfer its embassy in Israel from Tel Aviv to occupied Jerusalem, a foreign ministry spokesman said here on Sunday. Boaz Modai said the transfer, announced on Thursday in Guatemala by Guatemalan President Ramiro de Leon Carpio, would take place "very soon." After Israel seized East Jerusalem in the 1967 war, 13 countries transferred their embassies from the Holy City to Tel Aviv. In the mid-1980s Costa Rica and El Salvador moved their embassies back to occupied Jerusalem.

Kurdish groups take steps to restore peace

PENJWIN (AFP) — Rival Kurdish factions in northern Iraq have taken steps to restore peace after scores of people died in bitter fighting last month. Kurdistan officials said here Sunday. Civilians who had fled the battle zone had started returning home and fighters from the rival Patriotic Union of Kurdistan (PUK), Kurdistan Democratic Party (KDP) and pro-Iranian Kurdistan Islamic League (KIL) had withdrawn from all towns, the officials said. The latest round of fighting erupted a day after a joint appeal for a ceasefire on Aug. 25 by PUK leader Jalal Talabani and his KDP rival Massud Barzani.

Bashir eager to end war in south

KHARTOUM (AFP) — A visiting British member of parliament (MP) said Saturday that Sudanese leader General Omar Hassan Al Bashir told him his government would welcome any initiative to end the war in southern Sudan. Labour MP Bernie Grant is currently leading a Labour Party delegation on a visit to Sudan which he said was aimed at probing prospects for a peace settlement. After meeting the Sudanese president, Mr. Grant told the Sudan News Agency (SUNA) that they had discussed issues relating to peace in Sudan.

Israel hails Assad's 'declaration of peace'

Syrian leader's speech in parliament seen as breaking new ground for peace

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel hailed Sunday a speech by Syrian President Hafez Al Assad as a "declaration of peace" and called for a new approach to find an accord with Syria.

"It was a declaration of peace. In previous times we used to hear declarations of war," Foreign Minister Shimon Peres told a press conference.

"It doesn't mean that the problems between us and Syria are already solved," he said. "If the solution is not clear the air is becoming clearer and I welcome it."

"The solution does not lie in the Israeli or Syrian position, but in a third position which should be agreed," he said.

Mr. Peres ran through historic precedents when peace came not from the entrenched positions of warring parties but from "unforeseen" new ideas which demand "creativity."

However, he tempered his optimism with an admission that he could not provide a timetable for peace and that Israel would have to "pay a price."

Mr. Peres called the press conference to mark the Sept. 13 signing of the declaration of principles for Palestinian autonomy with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

But he focused on Syria, two days after Israel offered a marginal withdrawal from the

Golan Heights over a three-year test period.

Deputy Foreign Minister Yossi Beilin said Mr. Assad and Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin were preparing their public for serious negotiations "with a view to signing a peace accord which will require heavy sacrifices on both sides."

Israel's chief negotiator with Syria, Itamar Rabinovich, told the radio: "It is impossible to ignore the fact that Syria is saying it wants total peace."

"Assad does not often talk about peace and the peace process. It's important and positive speech," said Mr. Rabinovich, who is also Israel's U.S. ambassador.

It was all enough to worry Jewish settlers on the Golan Heights, seized by Israel in the 1967 war and "annexed" in 1981, who have launched a protest campaign called Force 94 against any "concessions" to Syria.

A small group of settlers went on a hunger strike Sunday at the Golan settlement of Gamla.

Israeli Health Minister Ephraim Sneh, a Labour Party "hawk," was also cautious. "Assad's speech portends difficult and long negotiations during which Israel will have to insist on its security interests."

Mr. Assad said Saturday at the opening of parliament in Damascus that he was ready to fulfil the requirements for

peace in the Middle East.

Syria "was aware of the objective requirements of peace and is ready to conform to the requirements on which an accord will be based."

Mr. Assad stressed that Syria "was aware of the importance of a peace which guarantees a total retreat."

"We will do our best to allow that hope to flourish," he said, adding that Syria had informed the U.S. administration of its "willingness" to continue with the peace process.

U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher was expected to visit the region again shortly on another shuttle.

Syria wants an Israeli pledge for total withdrawal, while Israel wants a Syrian commitment to total peace before detailing the scope of withdrawal.

Syrian Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa reportedly said in London this week that Syria wanted a "warm peace," once Israel handed back all the Golan.

And after Mr. Rabin detailed Thursday his offer of a "marginal" withdrawal over three years, Mr. Sharaa called for a quick pullout.

"Israel should leave the Golan within a month," he said, keeping the door open to further negotiations.

In his speech on Saturday, Mr. Assad demanded full Israeli withdrawal from the

Heights.

"Here we are speaking of a speech that's both important and positive," Mr. Rabinovich told Israeli army radio.

Although Mr. Assad focused on the interests of Syria and Lebanon, Mr. Rabinovich said, it was rare for him to speak in public at all or about peace moves.

"The new development in this speech is that it's first and foremost a speech aimed at preparing public opinion in Syria," said Mr. Rabinovich.

Uri Savir, the foreign ministry director-general, said Mr. Christopher would return to the region this month or next to try to broker a breakthrough with Syria.

"The Americans I met in Washington last week were overall pretty optimistic it was possible to bridge the more basic Israeli and Syrian positions and reach some sort of agreement that would at least enable negotiations at a more senior level," Mr. Savir told army radio.

In an interview broadcast by German radio, Prime Minister Rabin said he believed secret bilateral talks with Syria were the best way to work towards a peace deal.

On Saturday night, thousands of Israeli Golan settlers staged a rally, the first shot in a campaign to block an Israeli withdrawal.

Mr. Rabin offered last week a slight pullback on the

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His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan bin Talal, the Regent, on Sunday chairs a photo

Regent urges thorough review of laws, crime prevention

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan bin Talal, the Regent, on Sunday called for a thorough and comprehensive review of laws and precautionary measures to prevent crimes and stressed the need to broaden the authorities of provincial governors to enable them to enforce the law and guarantee the citizens' rights to live freely and in peace.

The Crown Prince's call came during a meeting held at the Ministry of Justice, three days after the killing of a woman by a stray bullet fired in a tribal clash in Naour.

Prince Hassan Saturday visited the family of the victim and offered condolences.

At Sunday's meeting, which was attended by Justice Minister Hisham Al Tal, senior ministry officials and heads of courts, the Crown Prince stressed the need to

enforce the law and ensure citizens' respect for it. The Crown Prince reviewed a number of issues, including shortcomings in observing the laws on crimes and traffic.

Mr. Tal said his ministry has embarked on a comprehensive legal and judicial study of laws adding that it would coordinate with the Ministry of Interior in all issues dealing with protecting citizens' lives and safeguarding the country's interests.

The minister said the study would be completed soon, adding that it includes deterrent measures against killing and other crimes.

A new mechanism to enforce the laws in a manner capable of ensuring respect for human rights, and putting an end to all violations of these sacred rights, would be implemented soon, he said.

The ministry will also crystallise a comprehensive national approach based on

coordination and cooperation with the parties concerned to inform people about their rights and duties. The approach, he said, calls for utilising all educational, media, and administrative channels to educate people about their rights and duties.

The meeting was attended by the heads of the Higher Court of Justice, the Court of Appeal, the Criminal Court, the prosecutor general, the Ministry of Justice secretary general, the director of the Public Security Department and commander of the badia and border police department.

In a related development, the Ministry of Awqaf called on all citizens to stop using arms and to desist from festive firing during wedding and other social occasions, and to follow Islamic manners and religious teachings in expressing joy and happiness.

Self-rule donors to meet in Oslo

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — A meeting of donors for the Palestinians will now be held Tuesday in Oslo during a visit by Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres, an Israeli foreign ministry spokesman said Sunday.

The talks were postponed in Paris last week after Israel rejected a bid by the PLO delegation to include projects in East Jerusalem, which is not covered by the autonomy agreement.

"The discussions will resume on Sept. 13," the spokesman told AFP. "Messrs Arafat and Peres, who will be taking part in an anniversary ceremony for the Oslo agreement, could intervene, possibly to sort out certain points," he added.

The postponed meeting had been organised at the request of the Palestinian National Authority (PNA) to review its budget and aid programmes for the Gaza Strip and West Bank.

"We are not against the principle of foreign investment in East Jerusalem," the spokesman said. "But we refuse to have these investments made in the framework of international aid pledged to Palestinian autonomy."

Under the declaration of principles for Palestinian autonomy signed in Washington last Sept. 13, the question of the status of Jerusalem had been negotiated only after two years of self-rule.

Mr. Peres and Mr. Arafat are to attend a first anniversary "Shalom-Salaam" peace concert organised by the United Nations and the Norwegian capital where secret talks were held leading to the self-rule agreement.

Settlers held

Israeli Finance Minister Abraham Shohat will discuss economic issues with Mr. Yasser Arafat on Monday, a finance ministry spokesman said.

Israel and the PLO signed an agreement in Paris in April governing economic relations between the Jewish state and the Palestinian self-rule areas, Gaza and Jericho.

The two are also expected to discuss international aid to Palestinians.

Police Minister Moshe Shahal said in an interview published Sunday two Israeli settlers arrested on suspicion of organising a terrorist underground were "on the brink" of attacking Arabs.

Brothers Eitan and Yehuda Kahalani planned an attack in the Jerusalem area, Mr. Shahal told the daily Haaretz.

"Such acts create a cycle of bloodshed where innocent people pay the price," Mr. Shahal added.

In February, a Jewish settler massacred at least 30 Palestinians praying in the West Bank town of Hebron. Six settlers leaders were detained without trial in March and six more extremists arrested this month.

The arrests came after intelligence reports of plans by extremists to stage attacks at the site of the Hebron massacre when the shrine reopens in mid-October.

Also Sunday, Israel released a Jewish militant jailed without trial following the Hebron massacre for contacts with the anti-Arab Kach and Kahane Lives groups, banned at the same time.

However, a military order bars Baruch Ben-Yosef from returning to his home in occupied Jerusalem for three

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Cairo forum stalled over 'sex,' 'family'

CAIRO (Agencies) — A U.N. population conference in Cairo stood at deadlock on Sunday as delegates met behind the scenes in a rushed attempt to reconcile Muslim and secular Western views on sexual rights, gender and the family.

The delegates, now in the seventh day of the nine-day meeting, also have to break an impasse between the rich North and the poor South over whether immigrants have an absolute right to bring their families to join them.

The Vatican waited in the wings, waiting to see the final text of a conference declaration before it assents to a painstakingly crafted paragraph on abortion.

The delegates have their next formal meeting on Monday morning and time is running to draft a declaration acceptable to as many of the countries as possible.

The outcome will be a programme of action setting policy guidelines which would help hold the world's population to 7.2 billion in the year 2015, up from 5.67 billion today.

The programme puts the emphasis on family planning for all and empowering women through education and social change.

More than 150 national delegations have been taking part, lobbied from the sidelines by non-governmental organisations including radical feminists and anti-abortion activists.

The Vatican and its Catholic allies dominated the first week, holding out against an overwhelming majority in favour of recognising unsafe abortion as a serious public health problem.

Now the focus has shifted to the Muslim governments, many of which face domestic opposition to the liberal con-

cepts and terminologies which pepper the final declaration (see page 2).

A working group on the controversial chapter on "reproductive health and rights" has not submitted its recommendations to the main drafting committee, where it could still run into trouble.

The expressions still in dispute include "marriages and other unions," sexual rights for "couples and individuals" and "various concepts of family." The issue of sexual advice for adolescents also lurks in the background.

Most of the 3,500 delegates on Sunday took their first rest in a week which ended with the Vatican giving a guarded welcome to a compromise paragraph on abortion contained in the 113-page draft document.

But the Holy See said late Friday it was withholding approval until other references to abortion had been debated. The controversy also took a new twist when three American journalists who are pro-life supporters were detained.

The main committee was to reconvene on Monday, while small groups were meeting informally Sunday to tackle outstanding issues, Egyptian officials said.

Many of the delegates from the 182 countries, especially from developing countries, have voiced frustration at the delays at the expense of the acute problems they face.

The Vatican has been accused of holding the conference hostage, and a group of feminists even circulated a petition calling on the United Nations to exclude the Holy See.

The Vatican is not really a state, the petition charged, because it is "only inhabited

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Scientists issue warning on environment, page 12

Majali reports signs of thaw in ties with S. Arabia, Kuwait

By Ayman Al Safadi
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali on Sunday urged Arab countries to end their differences so that they can contribute to the shaping of the new regional order that will inevitably engulf the area. If Arab countries fail to reconcile their differences, the new regional order will be imposed on them, Dr. Majali told a press conference.

Reiterating Jordan's position that it welcomes any move towards Arab reconciliation, Dr. Majali said that there were signs that relations with some Gulf Arab countries were improving.

The prime minister cited the Saudi endorsement of the Jordanian decision to send an ambassador in Riyadh and the warm welcome he said Kuwait awarded a Jordanian Foreign Ministry official last week as indications that relations were improving.

However, Dr. Majali said, Gulf officials say the "problem with Jordan is its media" which "they think the government can control."

Dr. Majali said articles that appeared in the Jordanian press about some Gulf countries have on many occasions undermined efforts to put ties on the right track.

"Jordan was punished by some Gulf and Western countries" because of its opposition to the war that the allies launched on Iraq after the latter invaded Kuwait in 1990. While relations with all Western countries have returned to their pre-Gulf war levels, he said, the problems are not over with all Gulf states.

Describing relations with Qatar and Oman as excellent, Dr. Majali said ties with the United Arab Emirates

"are good," adding that UAE President Sheikh Zayed Ben Sultan Al Nahayan indicated willingness to improve ties with Jordan when they met in Geneva last month though Sheikh Zayed said problems are still to be worked out.

"We are not against the Kuwaiti people; nor are we against Kuwait," Dr. Majali told reporters at the Prime Ministry. "We recognise the suffering of the Kuwaitis just as we do that of the Iraqis."

But the prime minister pointed to the limited role Jordan can play on the Arab scene "because our ability to move is limited. Our resources are limited and we engage in politics while we are surrounded by four countries which are stronger than us in terms of manpower and resources."

Responding to a question, Dr. Majali said that relations with Syria "are very good" though the two governments have not been in direct contact over the peace process since Syria's cold reception to the signing of the Washington Declaration on July 25.

Dr. Majali said the Kingdom had coordinated its position with other Arab countries to the peace process since it was launched in Madrid, adding that Jordan believes in "a comprehensive solution" to the Arab-Israeli conflict.

But if they choose not to let Jordan in on developments in their tracks, "we understand" their position, Dr. Majali said.

Dr. Majali expected progress in the Syrian-Israeli negotiations, saying the speech Syrian President Hafez Al Assad delivered in parliament Saturday "included clear indications that a breakthrough is possible."

Answering a question about

out bilateral Jordanian-Israeli talks which resume in Israel today, Dr. Majali said Israel was procrastinating despite its agreement to demarcate its borders with the Kingdom.

He said Israel was also obstructing progress in the water talks by bringing up the issue of the share of the Jordan and Yarmouk Rivers which Jordan insists should be distributed in accordance with the conditions that prevailed in 1948.

Difficulty is also expected in talks over occupied Jordanian areas near the Dead Sea where both the Kingdom and Israel are mining potash. "The issue here is difficult and Jordan will not settle it (without a price)," the prime minister told reporters.

Dr. Majali denied reports that Jordan and Israel were holding secret talks parallel to the negotiations which have moved to the region in July.

Responding to the tension that developed between the Kingdom and the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) after the Washington Declaration recognised the religious custodianship of the Hashemites over Holy sites in Jerusalem, Dr. Majali said the tension was created by trouble seekers but the issue was cleared between the two sides.

He said it was the PLO that requested a continuation of the Jordanian role in the Holy City after the Kingdom severed links with the occupied West Bank in 1989, pointing to what he called the historic role that Hashemites have played in guarding the holy sites since the beginning of the century.

He said had Jordan not

(Continued on page 7)

Islamic countries on the defensive over women's rights

CAIRO (AFP) — The U.N. population conference's debates on equality between the sexes has annoyed and embarrassed many Islamic countries where discrimination against women exists on a large scale.

Egypt, Iran, Pakistan and North African countries have objected to part of the conference's 20-year action plan which proposes equal inheritance rights for men and women, delegates say.

Islamic law stipulates that men receive two-thirds of any inheritance and women one third.

Muslim countries also object to the plan's criticism of arranged marriages which take place without the consent of the future bride and groom, or at an early age.

Certain countries feel as if they have been put on trial by references to sexual equality, delegates say. They are embarrassed because "debates go beyond disputes over form to focus on the basic problem of women's social conditions," one delegate said.

The U.N. International Conference on Population and Development, which aims to curb soaring birth rates and promote development, believes improving women's status is vital to its goals.

It wants women to have the power to choose how many children they have, even though the social codes in some countries currently deny women the right to make the smallest decisions about their bodies.

Women are second-class citizens in many parts of the world where their primary role is to reproduce. In certain African regions, women have low social status — if they are infertile, they can be easily replaced.

Discrimination against women can begin from the moment they are born. In Asia and Africa a baby girl could be unwelcome because she will not carry on the father's name and she will require a costly dowry.

Chinese and Indians are relying on pre-natal echograph surveys more and more to verify if the unborn child is a boy.

A study in a Bombay

hospital found that out of 5,000 aborted foetuses, just one was male.

The U.N. action plan condemns these practices as "immoral" and says they lead to an excess of births of baby boys, clearly visible in world population patterns.

The pattern is exaggerated still further by higher mortality rates for girls than boys in childhood. The U.N. Children's Fund (UNICEF) says food and health care is reserved primarily for boys who are considered more useful.

Female children also lose out in education, the U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (UNESCO) says. As a result women account for two-thirds of the billion illiterate people in the world.

Between 85 to 100 million women undergo painful sexual mutilation in the form of female circumcision and infibulation — a tradition which can have disastrous health consequences.

Women also enjoy fewer legal rights than men in Muslim countries.

The U.N. and non-governmental organisations are fighting a running battle against violence and discrimination against women.

The 1993 Conference on Human Rights in Vienna ruled that acts against women contradicted fundamental rights of the individual and next year will see a world conference on women in Beijing.

The condition of women is now attracting an unprecedented amount of attention on the world stage, delegates said here.

The conference, which groups 182 countries, opened last Monday, Sept. 5, and runs until Tuesday, Sept. 12.

Here are some of the more memorable remarks spoken in and around the U.N. population conference, now in its seventh day in Cairo:

"How many million women does it take to make a bobbit?" woman activist at a seminar on female genital mutilation

"The Nordics are very hot on keeping sexual rights," — a U.S. delegate to reporters.



SCHOOLS REOPEN: Algerian children leave the Hydra primary school in the centre of the capital after the first day of classes Saturday. About eight million youths returned to school after the summer recess with none of the trouble or unrest forecast by Algeria's extreme Islamic fundamentalist group, the Groupe Islamique Armé (AFP photo)

Stranded Moroccans finally allowed home

ALGIERS (AFP) — More than a thousand Moroccan victims of the two-week-old visa war between Morocco and Algeria finally left Algiers and Tunis for Morocco Saturday, reliable sources said.

The Moroccans were stranded in Algeria and Tunisia after the closure of the Morocco-Algerian border in an escalating diplomatic row which has now spread to Tunisia.

Six hundred and eighty five of them boarded the car-ferry "Bismillah" early Saturday in the Algerian port of Oran. The Bismillah is expected in Tangiers Sunday, the sources said.

A French car-ferry, the Caribia, left the port of La Goullette near Tunis, with more than 400 Moroccan tourists on board. They had been stranded in Tunisia for 12 days after Algeria withdrew permission for them to drive through the country on their way back to Morocco.

Iraq displays will to enforce tough laws

AMMAN (AP) — Iraqi television has displayed the amputated hand and branded forehead of a convicted thief as part of an intensified government campaign to curb lawlessness.

The broadcast, which was shown on Iraq's state-run station Friday night, followed reports by newspapers in Iraq and Kuwait that President Saddam Hussein's government was cutting off the ears of army deserters and dodgers.

The newscast showed graphic footage of a bearded man lying unconscious in a hospital bed shortly after having his right hand chopped off and his forehead branded.

The camera showed close-ups of the bandaged stump of his right wrist as well as a black triangle about 2.5 centimetres wide which had been burnt on his forehead. A severed hand, displayed on blue cloth, also was shown.

A videotape of the broadcast reached Amman on Saturday and was shown to the Associated Press by Iraqis who requested anonymity. People familiar with Iraq's government-run television programmes said the announcer often was seen on the official station.

The television narrator identified the man as Ali Obaid Abed Ali, 37, and said

he was an "example to all those who allow themselves to trespass on the rights of others."

The narrator said Ali was found guilty of stealing his cousin's television and 250 Iraqi dinars, equivalent to \$225 at official rates, and 33 U.N. cents on the black market.

Ali's cousin, Manal Hamzeh Abed Ali, reported the robbery at her house in Baqouba, about 70 kilometres northeast of Baghdad, to police last month, the narrator said.

"Ali confessed his crime to the Dila criminal court, which ordered this punishment," the narrator said. Baqouba is the Dila province.

The telecast was the first confirmation of travellers' reports that the government has carried out the amputations it vowed earlier this summer to implement.

Under a June 5 decree, people convicted of robbery and car theft should have their rights hand cut off. Second offenders would lose a leg, and thieves who were armed or killed their victims would face the death penalty.

On June 14, Trade Minister Mohammad Mehdi Saleh warned that farmers who did not sell their cereal harvests to the state would have their hands cut off.

Crime has increased in Iraq as economic hardships worsen under the U.N. sanctions imposed after Iraq invaded Kuwait in 1990.

The Iraqi government has blamed disaffected ex-soldiers and outlaws for the lawlessness. But travellers from Iraq say that many of those involved in crime are ordinary citizens who were driven to murder and theft to survive as the social fabric of the country rips apart.

Iraqi soldiers who fled to Kuwait told authorities that Iraqi security forces have cut off the ears and branded the foreheads of 2,000 men who refused to be conscripted into the army, Kuwait's Al Watan newspaper said Tuesday.

A Kuwaiti Interior Ministry official confirmed Wednesday that two Iraqis had crossed the border and were detained. The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, declined to comment on the claims of amputation and branding.

On Thursday, a pro-government newspaper in Iraq said that two youths had their ears cut off for trying to avoid conscription.

The newspaper, which is named Iraq, said Mohammad Shakhour Rashid, 19, and Wasil Salim Nouri, 21, of the northern city of Kirkuk, were arrested Monday and promptly punished.

Age gap separates North and South

CAIRO (AFP) — Countries in the North and South, already divided by a huge imbalance in wealth, are also facing a widening age gap between their populations.

Experts at the U.N. Population and Development Conference here have been struck by the different demographic profiles between ageing industrialised countries and developing countries facing a wave of young people.

A high proportion of either young or elderly people has a profound effect on how a country must manage its resources.

In developing countries, where 95 per cent of the world's total population growth takes place, high birthrates have led to large generations of youngsters. Each woman has four to five children, on average.

"In Sub-Saharan Africa, 45 per cent of the population is less than 25 years old, which calls for the creation of more schools and health services," said French population expert Francis Gendreau.

But the biggest problem comes when the young reach the age to find work.

"In Nigeria or Mexico, the number of young people coming on to the job market has tripled since 1955," said Ian Pool, consultant expert to the International Commission on Population and Quality of Life, one of the independent organisations attending the Cairo conference.

In Mexico a million young people join the job market every year. In North African countries, another 56 million countries, another 56 million young job-hunters will have arrived by the year 2000.

All of which means developing countries must create 38 million jobs within 10 years for their young people. Otherwise "we will see this

generation sink into poverty or resort to emigration," Pool said.

In contrast, Japan's population grows older, thanks to falling birthrates which have led to women having two children or less.

They also have declining mortality rates. In fact the Japanese have the longest life expectancy in the world, any average of 79 years.

"Within just one generation there, the number of people aged 65-plus has risen from seven per cent of the population to 14 per cent," said Keiko Higashi, a Japanese specialist at the conference.

"In France, the same thing took a century."

In 2025 elderly people will make a record-breaking 21 per cent of Japan's population.

European states are witnessing the same phenomenon. "In Denmark in a generation's time there will be statistically 1.5 old people for every child," Mr. Pool said.

While industrialised countries make up 23 per cent of the world's population, they represent 44 per cent of people over the age of 60.

They too must shuffle resources in order to cope with the change. They will have to bump up social spending on the older generations, at the same time as the relative number of tax-payers shrinks.

In Japan six tax-payers finance the needs of one elderly person. But in 50 years time, there will only be two tax-payers for every old person.

Industrialised countries also face the prospect of a wave of immigrants from developing countries seeking better conditions in the North.

Miracle man tries to heal Lebanon's scars

BEIRUT (AFP) — On crutches and in wheelchairs, the Lebanese have been flocking in their thousands to catch a glimpse of a Canadian "miracle worker," Father Emilien Tardif, travelling round their country.

They have been rewarded with dazzling results, according to press reports and the Maronite Church here.

Father Tardif, originally from Santo Domingo, was invited to Lebanon by the maronite bishop of Beirut, Monsignor Khalil Abinader.

For four days he travelled the country demonstrating his gifts as a worker of miracles, thanks to a whip-round in Lebanon to cover his expenses.

The bishop was delighted with the results. "In Lebanon, since Saturday, he has done around 15 miracles, notably curing a young Shiite Muslim," Maronite Abinader said.

Father Tardif has been invited back next year to the country where the Lebanese people say Jesus performed his first miracle.

A member of the Sacred Heart Missionaries, based in the Dominican Republic, Father Tardif has travelled the world since 1973 when he was "miraculously" cured himself of tuberculosis by two nuns in Canada.

"His gifts were revealed at that time. Over there he began by curing five people," said the bishop, who is preparing a report for the Vatican.

Last week, 30,000 to

40,000 people crowded into a northern suburb of Beirut hoping for everything from a modest cure to recovering their sight or even walking again.

Like a film star Father Tardif, with a police escort, squeezed his way through the crowds of people who stretched out their hands to reach him.

In return Father Tardif touched several heads, said a few words and gave his blessing on his way to the stadium where he addressed his healing prayers. The crowds echoed his words with prayers and hymns.

"I was with a work of league, whose legs were paralysed from birth. I saw him with my own eyes get up painfully out of his wheelchair and take a few faltering steps," said a private television station employee.

Father Tardif himself is careful to point out that cure which take place after a visit from him — he has already visited 63 countries — are not all miracles. Some are psychological, he says.

The Maronite Church invited Father Tardif for a renewal of religious life in Lebanon, "because he would bring 'a life of prayer and faith to Lebanon which needs it after having known war' between 1975 and 1990," Mons. Abinader said.

"Miracles are a phenomenon which exists in the church. God sometimes allows miracles to bring forth," another religious leader told AFP.

Milestones in the year since Israel, PLO made peace

NICOSIA (AFP) — A year ago on Tuesday images of a historic handshake between former bitter enemies Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) Chairman Yasser Arafat flashed around the world.

The occasion was the signing on Sept. 13, 1993 of the landmark declaration of principle in Washington, which marked a turning point in the troubled history of the Middle East.

The declaration had been hammered out in a series of secret talks held in Norway, and paved the way for the launch of Palestinian self-rule in the Gaza Strip and Jericho.

Here is a chronology of events which have occurred in the past tumultuous 12 months since then:

September 1993: — 23: The Israeli parliament ratifies the declaration of principles.

October: — 1: Two billion dollars in aid over the next five years is pledged at a conference in Washington to back Palestinian self-rule.

— 6: Mr. Rabin and Mr. Arafat meet in Cairo to set up working structures to investigate the declaration.

— 11: The PLO's Central Committee ratifies the declaration and approve the setting up of a Palestinian authority to run autonomy in the interim period.

— 13: Negotiations start on the Israeli army's withdrawal from the Gaza Strip and Jericho in Taba, Egypt.

— 25: Israel begins to free Palestinian prisoners but keeps militants from the Hamas and Islamic Jihad groups opposed to the peace process behind bars.

December: — 12: Mr. Arafat and Mr. Rabin fail to agree on an Israeli army pullout due to

start on Dec. 13. January: — 10: Negotiations resume in Taba.

— 20: Israel and the PLO agree to disagree over border crossings between the autonomous Gaza Strip and Egypt, and the occupied West Bank and Jordan.

February: — 9: In the first concrete implementation of the September declaration, Mr. Arafat and Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres sign an accord mainly concerning the crossing points.

— 16: Negotiators in Taba agree on cooperation and coordination between the Israeli army and the future Palestinian police.

— 25: A Jewish settler guns down 29 Arab worshippers in a mosque in the West Bank town of Hebron. The PLO demands concrete decisions from the United Nations on international protection

for the Palestinian people, calls for settlers to be disarmed and settlements to be dismantled.

March: — 1: The PLO decides to suspend negotiations with Israel until Palestinians are given security guarantees.

— 18: The United Nations adopts Resolution 904 condemning the Hebron massacre and calling for measures to protect the Palestinians.

— 31: An accord setting out the deployment of 160 international observers in Hebron is signed in Cairo. It also stipulates a resumption of talks.

April: — 3-5: The Israeli police begin to quit Jericho and the army evacuates part of its Gaza headquarters. Under the declaration the pullout is supposed to be complete by April 13.

Israel and the PLO agree that the new Palestinian

police will be a 9,000 strong force.

6-13: Fourteen Israelis were killed in a series of attacks in Israel claimed by Palestinian groups.

May: — 4: Landmark autonomy accord signed in Cairo launching self-rule in Gaza and Jericho. But at the last minute Mr. Arafat dramatically refuses to sign one of the documents in front of 2,000 people gathered for the ceremony. He only signs after hurried backstage talks.

18: The Palestinian police take charge of security as the Israeli army completes its pullout but remains around Jewish settlements and on the crossing points.

The new armed force, trained abroad, is greeted by ecstatic crowds which give its members a hero's welcome as they arrive over the following days.

July: — 1: Mr. Arafat makes a triumphant return to Gaza ending a 27-year exile, and thousands turn out to greet him.

5: The New Palestinian Authority is sworn in Jericho in a ceremony watched by Mr. Arafat.

12: Mr. Arafat returns for good to the Gaza Strip.

August: — 10: Mr. Rabin and Mr. Arafat meet for the first time in the Gaza Strip, at the Erez border crossing with Israel.

15: Palestinian police cracks down for the first time on Hamas militants after two anti-Israeli attacks. Numerous members of Islamic Jihad are also later rounded up.

29: Israel and the PLO strike a deal for transferring civilian powers in several fields including education to Palestinians throughout the West Bank, allowing them to run their own affairs for the first time in decades.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 73111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

17:00 Pi Et Hercule
17:30 Beaumani
18:30 News in French
18:45 The Weekly Sport Magazine
19:00 News in Hebrew
19:30 Black Beauty
20:00 News in Arabic
20:30 Home Five
21:10 A Galactic Odyssey
22:00 News in English
22:30 Matrix

PRAYER TIMES

04:53 Fajr
06:12 (Sunrise) Duha
12:25 Dhuhr
16:05 Asr
18:53 Maghrib
20:12 Isha

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church
Switzerland, Tel. 810740
Assemblies of God Church, Tel.
627285.
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624580.
Church of the Annunciation Tel.
627440.
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757
Terresanta Church Tel. 622266
Church of the Annunciation Tel.
623541.

Anglican Church Tel. 628551, Tel. 628543.

Armenian Catholic Church Tel.
771331.

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel.
775261.

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751.

Armenian International Church Tel.
625256.

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel.
623328.

German-speaking Evangelical Church
Tel. 664195.

The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932

Church of Nazareth Tel. 627594

The Evangelical Local Church in
Amman Tel. 611295

Min/Max. temp.

Amman 19 / 33

Aqaba 26 / 34

Desert 17 / 27

Jordan Valley 34 / 39

Yesterday's high temperatures:
Amman 33, Aqaba 39 Humidity
readings: Amman 23 per cent.
Aqaba 28 per cent.

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY

AMMAN:

Dr. Bassam Karadshch 759201

Dr. Jum'a Abu Dhab 758848

Dr. Youssef Abdo 642416

Dr. Bassam Qaddumi 648633

Firas pharmacy 661912

Perdous pharmacy 778336

Al Asema pharmacy 674055

Natroukh pharmacy 623672

Al Salam pharmacy 626730

Shenoudi pharmacy 637641

Natroukh pharmacy 623672

Nugh pharmacy 647632

IRBID:

Dr. Fayez Al Qadi 273499

Alquds pharmacy (—)

ZARQA:

Dr. Youssef Harzallah 98875

Khalid pharmacy 985417

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ZARQA:

Dr. Youssef Harzallah 98875

Khalid pharmacy 985417

EMERGENCIES

Food

Control Centre 637111

Civil Defence Department 661111

Civil Defence Immediate 630341

Civil Defence Emergency 199

Fire Brigade 67101

Highway Police 643402



Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali headed by Minister Rima Khalaf (Petra) Saturday participates in a meeting of Ministry of Industry and Trade officials

Prime minister calls for more economic activity in era of peace

AMMAN (Petra) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali Sunday stressed the need to encourage all forms of investment in Jordan, and called for taking advantage of the economic circumstances currently prevailing in the region.

During a meeting at the Ministry of Industry and Trade with Minister Rima Khalaf and Secretary General Mohammad Smadi, Dr. Majali said economic investments flourish during times of peace if supported by a proper investment climate.

The prime minister said the eliminating of routine and the addressing of all hindrances to investment will encourage investors to establish their own projects in Jordan.

He called for turning Jordan into a model for development towards better investments. To be able to do this, he said, investment laws and legislation need to be reconsidered with a view to making investments in Jordan more attractive.

Dr. Majali called for training staff and orienting them on the latest administrative and practical measures in order to eliminate routine work and create an appropriate investment climate which will encourage investors to establish projects.

Dr. Majali stressed the importance of providing the basic infrastructure as a necessity for investments.

Dr. Khalaf reviewed some of the obstacles to invest-

ments in Jordan, and said her ministry is working seriously on providing the appropriate atmosphere to attract such business.

She said the ministry is currently involved in updating the law on encouraging investments in Jordan and the Companies Law in order to overcome those obstacles to investment.

The proposed amendments to both laws will be submitted to Parliament for endorsement, Dr. Khalaf said. Mr. Smadi said all laws and legislation which might obstruct the investment process will be reconsidered.

He added that a special investment unit will be set up at the ministry to deal with related issues.

28 food poisoning victims still hospitalised

Authorities say food establishments require more monitoring

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

SALT — Only 28 out of 200 people admitted to Al Hussein Hospital in Salt with food poisoning, remained in hospital Sunday.

Initial reports Saturday had said that 220 people were admitted to the hospital, but hospital Director Ossama Samawi, confirmed that only 200 people were actually admitted.

Hospital reports indicated that all 200 food poisoning patients had eaten from Al Barkat Restaurant in Al Salt area in Salt.

Dr. Samawi said that symptoms of the disease indicated that the food was contaminated with salmonella bacteria.

Symptoms of such food poisoning includes nausea, abdominal pains, diarrhoea and fever.

"At first, we received few patients on Friday, suffering from the symptoms. Later in the day the numbers increased dramatically and we realised that something was wrong," Dr. Samawi told the Jordan Times Sunday.

He added that symptoms of salmonellosis appear within eight to 48 hours of ingestion.

According to Dr. Samawi, the 144-bed hospital admitted food poisoning patients ranging in age from one to 50-years-old.

"Two hours after we had

breakfast Friday, my family and I started feeling sick, and we came to the hospital, but thanks God all my family had left the hospital," Zahieh Adel, 47, one of the remaining patients told the Jordan Times.

She said that the family always bought food from the Barkat restaurant, and that was the first time they became ill from the food.

Lamia Abu Salman, another patient who was expected to be released from hospital today, said that her family gathered on Friday for breakfast. She said the symptoms started appearing late at night, and the entire family was rushed to hospital.

Khalifeh Abu Salim, a father of three, who also had food poisoning said that his children had to sleep on the floor in the hospital because there were no more beds available.

"Hospital officials supplied the paediatrics section with extra mattresses, but it was still not enough, and my children, along with many others had to sleep on the floor," Mr. Abu Salim told the Jordan Times.

Samir Awamleh, general director of Balqa health service told the Jordan Times Sunday that the restaurant which had just opened had not obtained a licence to operate or a health certificate for its two employees.

Food establishments re-



Health workers Sunday attend to food poisoning patients at Al Hussein Hospital in Salt where 200 people were admitted suffering from salmonellosis (Photo by Rana Hussein)

quire several licences, including health, supply and operation licences. Establishments serving prepared foods to the public are not allowed to operate without all these licences, Dr. Awamleh said.

"The restaurant opened in early July, and our health inspectors who checked the restaurant fined and warned the owner to complete the procedures and obtain the necessary documents before operating, but the owner did not listen and he was stalling," Dr. Awamleh said.

He said that police and

Health Department officials raided the restaurant and apprehended the owner and the two employees who worked there, taking samples of the food for examination.

"We took samples of water, food and examined all the restaurants' facilities to determine what caused the food poisoning," Dr. Awamleh said.

He added that the restaurant did meet health specifications, but the two employees at the restaurant had to undergo medical examinations to check if they caused the food poisoning. Dr. Awamleh admitted

that the responsibility falls on all parties for allowing the restaurant to operate without a licence.

"This is an indicator for all concerned authorities to increase the monitoring of food distribution and to monitor all health facilities closer," he added.

This is the second such massive poisoning incident to hit Salt.

In 1976, Salt water sources were mixed with sewage and more than 500 people became sick after drinking polluted water. No one died but some patients suffered from poliomyelitis as a result.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Regent to attend 'Islam, Arabs' seminar

IRBID (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, will patronise a seminar entitled "Islam and the Arabs," which will open at Yarmouk University on Sept. 19. Organised in cooperation with the British embassy in Amman, the seminar will review several working papers dealing with human rights in Islam, Islamic-Christian relations and the Muslims of the Arab World, among other topics, said Mohammad Oklah, Sharia faculty dean. He said researchers and scholars from Britain and the Arab World will take part in the meetings.

Princess Basma follows up on women's society needs

AMMAN (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Basma Sunday met with the Abu Nusseir Women's Society administrative committee and discussed with them the society's services and needs. The meeting was attended by President of the General Union of Voluntary Societies (GUVS) Abdullah Khatib who reviewed the union's plans to help set up buildings for voluntary societies. Princess Basma Thursday had visited the society and presented diplomas to a group of women who completed a training course in dress-making and tricot work. Princess Basma had expressed dissatisfaction with the condition of the society's building and stressed the need to

construct new premises.

Majali to address businesspersons

AMMAN (J.T.) — Prime Minister Abdul Salam Majali will be the guest of honour and a speaker at a seminar organised by the Jordanian Businessmen's Association (JBA) next Sunday, Sept. 18. At the seminar, which will be held at the Philadelphia Hotel in Amman, the prime minister is expected to tackle economic developments in the Middle East in the coming era of peace.

Aqaba-Eilat border closings announced

AMMAN (Petra) — The Public Security Department (PSD) announced that the Aqaba-Eilat border crossing will be closed Wednesday Sept. 14 at 1:00 p.m. The border crossing point will be closed all day Thursday, Friday and Saturday, Sept. 15, 16 and 17 and will re-open on Sunday Sept. 18.

CAA team to head for Brussels

AMMAN (Petra) — A delegation from the Civil Aviation Authority (CAA) led by its director, Ahmad Jweiber, leaves Amman for Brussels Tuesday on a several-day visit. Its members will hold talks with the Belgian civil aviation authority on scopes of cooperation in air transport affairs.

Scientists to discuss ICARDA projects

AMMAN (J.T.) — The sixth annual coordination meeting between Jordanian agricultural institutions and the International Centre for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas (ICARDA) will be held at the National Centre for Agricultural Research and Technology Transfer (NCARTT) centre in Baqa'a on Sept. 12 and 13, according to an ICARDA statement.

The meeting will be inaugurated by Minister of Agriculture Mansour Ben Tarif, and eight scientists representing the different research programmes of ICARDA will attend the meeting, said statement.

From the Jordanian side, the meeting will be attended by scientists representing NCARTT, the Ministry of Agriculture, faculties of agriculture, and the Jordan Cooperative Organisation (JCO), according to the statement. The meeting, said the statement, will discuss the results of the cooperation

in the previous season, and will formulate a programme of cooperation for the 1994-1995 season in the following areas: cereals and legumes, pasture, forage and livestock, agricultural resource management, improved seed production, and technology, genetic resource collection and conservation.

The programme for human resources training and for visits by scientists from both sides will be developed, said statement.

During the 1993-1994 season, cooperation between ICARDA and Jordan covered several areas including: germplasm exchange and evaluation, water harvesting, wind erosion, tillage and residue management, and seed technology.

Five graduate students at the University of Jordan, working toward their M.Sc. degrees are supported by ICARDA, the statement said.

'Managerial skills workshop' to focus on rapid change

AMMAN (J.T.) — A special training workshop will Wednesday start here with the aim of upgrading the entrepreneurial skills of managers under conditions of rapid change, according to a United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) statement.

Sponsored by ESCWA, the University of Jordan's Outreach Consultation Project, and the Friedrich Ebert Foundation, the workshop will take place from Sept. 14 to 20 at the Intercontinental Hotel, said the statement Sunday.

According to an ESCWA spokesperson the workshop aims to enhance the ability of managers to detect and cope with a changing environment, to identify appropriate strategies for transforming changes into investment opportunities, and to create action plans to tap potential entrepreneurial and managerial dynamics within companies. About 20 managers and business executives will participate in the workshop. Following the opening

ceremony, a round-table discussion on "regional and international changes and their impact on the industrial sector in Jordan," will be held. The aim of the round-table discussion is to provide accurate information on relevant regional and international events, as well as analysis of the impact of these events on the industrial sector and on the economy as a whole in Jordan, said the spokesperson.

The round-table discussion will emphasise the impact of the peace process and the emerging geopolitical changes in the region. ESCWA Industry Division's Officer-in-Charge, Hasan Charif, will set the stage for the discussion, introducing the main topics, according to the statement.

Addressing the workshop participants will be four speakers: Mohammad Said Al Nabulsi, governor of the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ), will present the impact of regional and international events on fiscal and monetary policies in Jordan,

taking into consideration the impact of open market policies implied by the new international trade agreements.

Taher Kanaan, director of the Industrial Development Bank of Jordan (IDB), will present the economic impact of regional and international events stressing the expected direct impact of the peace process and of the implementation of the new international trade agreements.

Zaki Ayoubi, an ESCWA consultant, will analyse the impact of rapid changes on the industrial sector in Jordan, based on a field survey undertaken in Amman.

Abdennur Habaibi, board member in the Amman Chamber of Industry, will present the chamber's efforts to prepare industrial enterprises in Jordan to better cope with these changes.

The presentations will be followed by an hour-long free discussion. The remainder of the workshop will be divided into three core modules: identification of change, predicting change, and coping with change, said the statement.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify (the listed time and place with the concerned institutions).

FILMS

★ Chinese film entitled "The Police Officer in the Tannin Year" (with subtitles in English) at the Royal Cultural Centre at 7:30 p.m.

PLAY

★ Children's play in Arabic entitled "The Festival" at the Royal Cultural Centre at 10:00 a.m.

LECTURE

★ Lecture in English with a slide show entitled "Ammonite Towers in Amman" by Muhammad Al-Najjar at the Friends of Archaeology at 7:00 p.m.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition of oil paintings by Rashad Salim at Ab'ad Art Gallery (10:00 a.m. - 7:00 p.m.) (Tel. 819861).
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Syrian artist Walid Qarsili at Baladna Art Gallery (Tel. 687598).
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by Yousef Al Baddawi at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of Chinese paintings and handicrafts at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of oil paintings by Iraqi artists Sa'd Al Ta'i, Talal Issa and Mahdi Al Assadi at Al 'Ain Art Gallery (Tel. 644451).
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by selected Iraqi artists at Alfa Art Gallery (Tel. 639303).
- ★ "The Diness Exhibit" — beginnings of photography in Jerusalem and the Holy Land at the American Center exhibition hall, Abdoun.
- ★ Exhibition entitled "Time-2 Space 1" by Samia Zarou at Darat Al Funun of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Luweibdeh. Also showing "permanent" exhibition of 56 Arab contemporary artists (Tel. 643251/2).

Jordan, Germany sign draft produce export agreement

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and Germany Sunday signed a DM 2.5 million (approximately JD1 million) draft agreement designed to increase Jordanian exports of vegetables and fruits to foreign markets.

The three-year draft agreement concluded between the Jordan Agricultural Marketing and Processing Corporation (JAMPCO) and the German Agency for Technical Cooperation defines activities and executive programmes that will receive support from the German agency.

Director General of JAMPCO Salem Lawzi, who signed the draft agreement for the corporation, said the marketing sector in Jordan needs development and technical and financial support. Mr. Lawzi reviewed the preparatory work completed in order to set the stage for this draft agreement which will be implemented upon the signature of the Jordanian and German governments.

The agreement seeks to enhance the capacities of vegetable and fruit producers to export their goods to foreign markets and to develop the shipping process.

The draft agreement targets already established fruit and vegetable producers who regularly export their produce to foreign markets, in addition to those who export to the Gulf and European markets, Dr. Lawzi said.



Jordanian agricultural produce on display at the International Green Week fair in Berlin (Photo by Inter Naciones)

Zairean troops and Rwandan refugees clash at Kibumba camp

GOMA, Zaire (AFP) — Zairean troops and Rwandan refugees have clashed at a refugee camp in eastern Zaire, humanitarian workers said Sunday, prompting calls for aid workers to be sent to the camp only in necessary.

The Zairean forces fired into a crowd of people who had surrounded them, aid workers said.

It was not clear if there had been any casualties in the shooting, but some reports spoke of several refugees being injured.

The unrest prompted the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) to call on aid workers in the region to be prudent and only send in personnel where strictly necessary to the camp at Kibumba.

The camp has become temporary home for some 200,000 refugees from the Rwandan fighting.

Aid worker sources said Zairean troops told them they intervened to protect the Zairean chauffeur of a vehicle which had come under attack from people in the camp.

Rwandan sources, who have complained in the past about racketeering by some soldiers, responded by saying the Zaireans wanted to loot the vehicle, most of whose passengers were refugees.

Following the incident, refugees set up roadblocks on the route linking Kibumba to Goma, to prevent non-governmental organisations leaving the camps at night for reasons of security to return to Goma.

Some of their vehicles were forced to spend Saturday night camped on a U.N. site to north of Kibumba.

A spokesman for the United Nations Aid Mission in Rwanda meanwhile said some 500 troops from the Rwandan Patriotic Army, the new government forces backed by the Tutsi-dominated



A doctor examines a Rwandan orphan suffering from malnutrition upon her admission at the N'Docho orphanage, the largest in the Zairean region of Goma (AFP photo)

Rwandan Patriotic Front (RPF), had over the past week been deployed inside the former French-monitored zone in southwestern Rwanda.

The RPF emerged victorious in the civil war, which erupted after Hutu President Juvénal Habyarimana died in a suspect air crash on April 6. Up to one million Tutsis and moderate Hutus were killed in attacks blamed mainly on Mr. Habyarimana's militia groups.

Major Jean-Guy Plante said there were 210 soldiers from the RPA in the town of Gikongoro, 180 at Cyangugu and another 100-odd at Kibuye.

The new Rwandan government had said earlier it would deploy troops in the region by the end of the week. On

Wednesday, Interior Minister Seth Sendashonga said three battalions, representing some 1,800 soldiers, would be deployed over a fortnight.

The southwest region came under U.N. control after French troops left on Aug. 22, but the government is looking to take control of it as soon as possible after obtaining U.N. approval.

The U.N. mission currently has some 2,000 of its own troops in the area.

Major Plante meanwhile revealed 15 of 32 prisoners held in Cyangugu by Ethiopian U.N. troops had escaped Saturday. The 32 are suspected of "various criminal activities."

Maj. Plante added between 1,000 and 1,500 Rwandan refugees were now returning daily from Zaire to

their own country.

Meanwhile, one of the United Nations' human rights observers in Kigali has quit the operation because she was not given the means to carry out her job, a U.N. source said Sunday.

The move is likely to lead to fresh criticism of the U.N.'s commitment to Rwanda, where the new government installed by the RPF accuses troops and extremist Hutu militias of the ousted regime of genocide.

The observer, Karen Kenny, told AFP that her contract had ended and she had decided not to renew it. She gave no reasons for her departure.

But a source at the U.N. mission in Rwanda said that the lack of effective logistical support given to the mission, whose job is to catalogue human rights violations and investigate accusations of genocide in Rwanda's bloody civil war, is well known.

The U.N. has just four observers on the ground in Rwanda, while the special representative of the U.N. secretary general, Sharyar Khan, recently suggested a minimum of 70 was needed to carry out the job. Others believe the U.N. should provide an observer for every commune, which would bring the number required to 140.

Mr. Khan said on Aug. 25 that the observers were badly lacking transport and communications facilities. But he said that efforts were being made to remedy the situation and 25 extra observers were expected in Rwanda "in the coming days."

Over two weeks later, the human rights' observers' working conditions haven't changed, according to a U.N. source Sunday.

Ms. Kenny and other observers intend to meet the press Tuesday "but I am the only one to have asked that my contract not be renewed", she said.



Rwandan refugee children dance and sing at the N'Docho orphanage, the largest in the Zairean region of Goma, near the Megumba camp (AFP photo)

Crimea leader suspends parliament

KIEV (R) — The president of Ukraine's Crimean peninsula, Yuri Meshkov, closed down the region's parliament and local councils and took over local media Sunday, Interfax Ukraine News Agency reported.

Mr. Meshkov announced he was taking "full power" as he read a series of decrees on Crimean radio at 8:15 a.m. He has been at odds with the parliament for weeks in the autonomous region.

Mr. Meshkov said parliament in its present form was unworthy of performing legislative work. "A corrupt group has seized it," he said.

Police blocked all entrances to the modern glass and concrete building in the centre of the regional capital, Simferopol. Deputies refused entry to the building planned a rally in the square outside.

Parliament's deputy speaker, Viktor Mezha, had been due to make a radio address after the president, but Interfax said he was prevented from entering the broadcasting station.

An official reached by telephone inside the parliament said about 10 police officers were standing guard outside.

"Everything is calm and normal here," the official said. "President Meshkov is in his office working."

A duty officer for Ukraine's National Guard, or paramilitary police, said the rest of the city was calm. In his decrees, Mr. Meshkov set up a constitutional

council to prepare a new constitution to be submitted to a referendum on April 9 next year. Elections would be held within three months in the region, which wants closer ties with Russia.

Mr. Meshkov and parliament had until recent weeks been allies in pledging to loosen Ukraine's hold on Crimea.

But deputies fell out with Mr. Meshkov over his appointment as prime minister and to other cabinet posts.

Ukrainian President Leonid Kuchma was on a weekend holiday in the Crimean resort of Simeiz. His spokesman in Kiev were unavailable for comment.

Mr. Meshkov and Mr. Kuchma held talks in Crimea Friday and Crimean officials said Mr. Kuchma called for further talks to resolve the dispute.

Mr. Kuchma has made a single lukewarm statement on the Crimean dispute, urging both sides to settle their differences. Crimean politicians said it showed he wanted only minimum involvement.

The row was brought to a head by a law passed by Crimea's parliament last week reducing Mr. Meshkov's powers to that of head of government and curtailing his right to appoint local officials and call referendums.

Deputies further eroded his authority by creating a Constitutional Court empowered to declare the president unfit for office or rule his decrees invalid.

Mr. Meshkov denounced the decisions as a "coup d'état."

"Deputies are behaving like children being manipulated by some sort of a criminal mob," he told Crimean Television. "This is a parliament out of control."

Mr. Meshkov won a landslide victory in January on a platform of prising Crimea from Ukrainian control and rejoining Russia. The heavily pro-Russian parliament was elected two months later and Crimeans voted in a referendum for closer ties with Moscow.

Moscow ruled Crimea from the 18th century until 1954, when it was handed to Ukraine as a "gift" by Soviet leader Nikita Khrushchev. About two-thirds of its 2.7 million residents are ethnic Russians.

Parliament has retained its strong pro-Moscow position, approving in principle Thursday last month's declaration by the Crimean city of Sevastopol that it was Russian territory.

The port is home to the Black Sea Fleet, whose division remains one of the key disputes between Russia and Ukraine nearly three years after the collapse of Soviet power.

Crimean leaders had hoped Mr. Kuchma's election in July would help them move closer to Moscow. But Mr. Kuchma has maintained the firm line of his predecessor Leonid Kravchuk that Crimea is an integral part of Ukraine.

U.S. investigators look for more engine parts in crash probe

PITTSBURGH (R) — Investigators were expected to look for more pieces of the right engine of USAir's ill-fated Boeing 737-300 to try to determine whether it could have been the cause of the deadliest U.S. airline crash in seven years.

The plane, Flight 427, dropped vertically to earth just north of Pittsburgh International Airport to burst into a fireball seven miles (11-km) northwest of the city, killing all 132 people aboard.

Carl Vogt, National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) investigators, said Saturday that reversal of thrust in the right engine was being investigated as a possible cause of the tragedy.

"If you're flying along with two engines, and one suddenly reverses, you can imagine the consequences it would have," Mr. Vogt said at a news conference.

A reverser actuator from the aircraft's right engine was

found in the extended position, explained Mr. Vogt, which could indicate a loss of forward thrust in the right engine.

The reversers cause the thrust from the engine to be reversed, causing a stopping motion, Mr. Vogt said.

"One reverser actuator believed to be a part of the right engine was found in the extended position," said Mr. Vogt.

"We're not able to resolve at this time whether that extension could have been a result of the impact or whether it indicates an in-flight extension of the thrust reverser."

He said the reverser actuator was one of six actuators on each engine. The right engine's five other thrust reversers have not yet been found.

"We will be looking tomorrow for the other five thrust reverser actuators associated with the right engine."

said Mr. Vogt. "That will involve excavation. There's consideration being given to when that engine or both engines can be removed for remote site assembly."

Mr. Vogt said that in the left engine four of the thrust reverser actuators were found in the stowed position and a fifth actuator was found broken, making it impossible to determine which position it was in.

"Tomorrow the emphasis will be on the right engine and on finding the other actuators," he said.

Mr. Vogt gave results at the end of a second day of searching for clues and removing victims from the wreckage.

About 150 crash investigators will return early Sunday for a third day at the hilly, wooded crash site.

Earlier Saturday, Mr. Vogt said it will take a couple of months to prepare the initial NTSB report on the crash.

Prosecutors pass on death sentence for U.S. Simpson

LOS ANGELES (AFP) — A decision by prosecutors not to seek the death penalty for former football star O.J. Simpson has led to a storm of controversy here, with black leaders and women's rights activists on opposing sides.

The district attorney's office announcement Friday earned the praise of black leaders, but provoked consternation among women's rights groups.

Simpson 47, has been charged in the June 12 slaying deaths of his former wife Nicole Simpson, 35, and her friend Ronald Goldman, 25.

Their knife-gashed bodies were found in pools of blood outside the wife's posh condominium, located a short distance from the football star's mansion.

Simpson has pleaded innocent to all charges. His trial is set to begin Sept. 26.

Black groups heralded the prosecutor's decision not to seek the death penalty — meted out in California either by the gas chamber or lethal injection.

"They claim black defendants face the death sentence disproportionately," "We could be talking about an average Joe on the street and that's important because the reality is that

most of the black men who line death row are poor people who can't afford the high-priced attorneys," John Mack, president of the Los Angeles Urban League said.

But the decision left some women's rights groups crying foul. Simpson has a history of spouse abuse, having been to court once before for assaulting his former wife.

"I think O.J. Simpson has received special treatment," Susan Carpenter-McMillan, a conservative commentator said.

"This has been a good ol' boys club from beginning to end. If you can carry the ball Monday night then you can awe them in the courtroom Tuesday morning," she added.

Beyond race and sex however, some analysts said the decision just made good strategic sense for the prosecution.

"Seeking the death penalty 'probably would have undermined the chances of the prosecution to obtain a conviction,'" said Leo Terrell, a Beverly Hills civil rights lawyer.

"You have jurors there who know if they vote for first-degree murder, they're possibly sending this man to the gas chamber," he added.

Strikers explode bombs, pelt Dhaka police with rocks

DHAKA (R) — Opposition activists exploded dozens of home-made bombs and pelted police with rocks as an eight-hour general strike to press demands for early elections shut down much of the Bangladeshi capital Dhaka Sunday.

Witnesses said eight bombs went off near the Golap Shah Mazar area and about 20 others elsewhere.

Police, who had been relaxing after a quiet start to the stoppage, chased protesters through the streets. There were no immediate reports of injuries.

The strike, called a day after more than 200 people were injured and 125 arrested in bloody street battles between police and protesters, will be followed by two more days of stoppages, opposition leaders said.

The stoppage, which began at 6 a.m., stopped all transport except for a few rickshaws and taxi shops and schools. Witnesses said most private offices were closed

and fewer than one in five government employees turned up for work.

At zero point beside the main government secretariat, angry pickets attacked a motorised rickshaw as its three passengers ran for safety.

Officials at Dhaka's foreign banks said there was no trading Sunday. The Dhaka Stock Exchange was also closed.

"The stoppage has almost fully paralysed the city," one police officer told Reuters. He said people were still panicky after Saturday's violence.

Nearly 5,000 activists, mostly from the main opposition party the Awami League, picketed the secretariat. They chanted anti-government slogans and jeered at police.

"The corrupt and inefficient government has now proved itself fully devoid of democratic principles and norms. And it must go," Awami chief Sheikh Hasina told a news conference Saturday.

NATO and former foes to train to keep peace

WARSAW (R) — NATO troops will join their former Communist foes in Eastern Europe in a training exercise in Poland Monday, their first such deployment in East Europe.

The five-day operation, "Cooperative Bridge 94", is the first joint operation of Western and Eastern armies under NATO's partnership for peace initiative launched in January.

The exercise, in which some 900 soldiers from 13 countries will train for peacekeeping actions, is intended to bring armies of East and West closer together.

"It is a productive forum for sharing peacekeeping experience, developing a common understanding of operational procedures and improving the abilities of NATO and partnership forces to work together in peace support operations," NATO said.

Poland, one of several former Warsaw Pact countries eager to join NATO as soon as possible, sees the training as another opportunity to push its bid for early membership of the Western alliance.

"The objective of the operation is... to facilitate the

integration of the Polish army with the NATO armies," General Leon Komornicki, deputy head of Poland's army general staff, told the Rzeczpospolita newspaper.

Polish Defence Minister Piotr Kolodziejczyk said the importance of the exercise could not be overestimated.

The partnership programme, joined by 19 former Communist countries plus Sweden and Finland, provides for joint military training and defence planning, but it offers non-NATO states no security or membership guarantees.

Russia, which finally overcame its reluctance and joined the partnership for peace this summer, is not taking part in the exercise at the Biedrusko military area near Poznan in western Poland.

Western military experts said the exercise was intended to be low key also so as not to offend Moscow, which has been upset by the enthusiasm of its former Warsaw Pact allies for early NATO membership.

"It is the most harmless exercise possible. Training will involve only very simple things," said one expert, who asked not to be named. "One reason for choosing this form of action was out of consideration for Russia."

Quebec voters expected to sweep separatists into power

MONTREAL (R) — Angry Quebec voters are expected Monday to sweep into power a party which promises a new drive for independence from Canada, once again raising the spectre of the world's second-largest country breaking apart.

The last opinion polls published before the Sept. 12 election in Canada's largest province gave the separatist Parti Quebecois a 3-5 percentage point lead over the Liberal Party, more than enough to oust the incumbents after nine years in power.

Analysts say the Parti Quebecois' lead in popular vote could translate into a landslide of 75-85 seats in the 125-seat provincial legislature because French-speaking voters, who make up 82 per cent of the population and dominate most electoral districts, will likely favour the separatists by a wide margin.

But polls also show Quebecers are not voting so much for independence, as they are going against a gov-

ernment that left high taxes, a rising deficit and unemployment over 12 per cent.

"Dissatisfaction is very high," said Alain Gagnon, political scientist at McGill University. "This is one of the most important elements of the campaign."

Parti Quebecois leader Jacques Parizeau promises to work as soon as he's elected on reviving a dream of creating a French-speaking country in a North American sea of English-speakers.

Ever since former French President Charles De Gaulle shouted the separatist rallying cry "vive le Quebec libre" (long live a free Quebec) in 1967 from the balcony of Montreal City Hall, the debate over Quebec's place in Canada has haunted the country.

A 1980 referendum on sovereignty was defeated by a three to two margin following a bitter fight that tore families apart.

Mr. Parizeau has alarmed English Canadians by saying if he wins the election he

would quickly have the provincial legislature, called the National Assembly, pass a resolution giving the government a mandate to make Quebec sovereign.

He would then hold a new referendum on sovereignty sometime in 1995. Mr. Parizeau says a simple majority vote in favour of separation would be enough for Quebec to divorce from Canada.

But all opinion polls conducted during the seven-week campaign have shown that separation is not the top priority of Quebecers, and that a referendum would lose by a wide margin today.

A SOM poll of 1,008 Quebecers published Saturday showed that 56 per cent would vote "no" in a referendum, only 30 per cent would say "yes" and the remainder were undecided.

Most of those surveyed said job creation and the economy are their top priorities for the new government.

The portly, London School of Economics-trained

Parizeau has capitalised on these concerns during the campaign by attacking his Liberal opponent, Premier Daniel Johnson, over job losses in Quebec's largest city of Montreal and by highlighting issues such as health care and tax increases.

And he is not fazed by poll showing a referendum on separation would be lost. He says there is plenty of time after the election to convince Quebecers to risk separation, and even if the referendum is defeated he would try again.

"Absolutely not," Mr. Parizeau said when asked if he would stop trying if he loses the referendum. "I think the sovereignty of Quebec will be achieved. I believe it is necessary, and Quebecers understand that it is necessary."

The leaders of the rest of Canada, including Prime Minister Jean Chretien, have been eerily silent during the campaign for fear of playing into the hands of the separatists. But resentment is a sim-

mering, especially in western Canada, over the possibility that Quebec could decide Canada's fate.

Two separate deals aimed at reforming Canada's constitution to give Quebec more autonomy and recognise it as a "distinct society" have failed over the past four years, adding to the frustration on both sides.

Native Indians, who inhabit most of the northern part of the Alaska-sized province, have said they would fiercely oppose separation. Some of Quebec's English-speaking minority say they may leave if the province goes its own way.

An independent Quebec would also physically separate the four Atlantic provinces — Nova Scotia, New Brunswick, Prince Edward Island and Newfoundland — from the rest of Canada.

But Mr. Parizeau and other separatists say the gap between Quebec and the rest of Canada is too big to bridge, and the only solution is separation.

Population growth as high fashion theme

CAIRO (AP) — The world's population explosion has its fashionable side, too. On sale at the U.N. Population Conference here are ties, shirts and scarves with designs by international designer Hanae Mori based on the conference's logo. Pictured are two gingerbread children overlaid with leaves, wheat, birds and clouds — reflecting the theme of population intertwined with development and the environment. Of course, the goods also carry the Japanese designer's name. "We approached to design items to promote the conference. We want people to have nice souvenirs," said Kyo-ichi Nakamura, spokeswoman for the U.N. Population Fund. Profits from the items will go to charity. Mr. Nakamura said Mori ties priced at \$30 have normally sold for \$100. Still, not many of the 15,000 delegates, activists and journalists attending the meeting are buying. "People walk by, see the stuff and ask why it's expensive," said Carrie Lynn Johnson, spokeswoman at the U.N. booth.

Lost and found set up for U.N. delegates

CAIRO (AFP) — U.N. security has set up an office to handle an expected high number of items misplaced by delegates at the U.N. population conference, including one who lost \$3,000, an official said Sunday. "It's more than what was expected," the U.N. security official told AFP. "They've kept us busy. The good part of the story is that most things have been recovered." He said 10 to 15 items were misplaced daily in the sprawling Cairo International Conference Centre, where 3,500 delegates from 182 countries are attending the U.N. International Conference on Population and Development. Items include ID cards, bags, briefcases, pocket books, sunglasses and eyeglasses as well as about \$3,000 in cash and travellers' checks that U.N. officers recovered, the official said. "We check the rooms after them," he said. The conference from Sept. 5-13 is aimed at drafting a plan to stabilise world population growth. U.N. and Egyptian officials have set up a massive security network to protect delegates against threatened attacks from Egypt's Islamic militants, but no incidents have so far been reported.

1,700 locker keys found at S. Korean thief's home

SEOUL (R) — A woman who used more than 1,700 duplicate keys to steal cash and valuables worth \$50 million won (\$625,000) from locker rooms of public baths has been arrested, South Korean police said Sunday. They said the keys to lockers at dozens of baths in Seoul were found when police searched the house of Kim Min-ja, 50. Ms. Kim's clean sweep, which lasted two years, stopped Thursday when a public bath employee saw her stealing money from a locker and handed her over to police.

Minister jailed for preaching too loudly

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — A minister whose noisy congregation landed him in jail said praising God loudly is no reason to be prosecuted. "It's been quite embarrassing," said the Rev. Robert Wesley Hill, who left jail after making bail. "They went to quite a lot of trouble all because of worship." Residents in the quiet Linden Hills neighbourhood have registered 72 complaints to the city about the true Apostolic Assembly Church since August 1992. Some neighbours say they don't like the singing, preaching and amplified music from the 150-member congregation — especially in summer, when the church windows are open. The singing has been accompanied by electric guitar and drums. Lyonel Norris, an attorney who lives across the street from the church, said he had trouble working from home because of the constant noise. His 3-year-old daughter calls the church "the singing house" and doesn't want to go to sleep at night when she hears it. "I don't care if it's Pink Floyd, the Rolling Stones, Ice Cube or Rev. Hill's church," Mr. Norris said.



A Cuban woman is rescued by Paul Demonte (centre) and Rene Gonzalez (left) of the U.S. Coast Guard after she was hit in the

chest by an object thrown from an airplane that spotted her raft some forty miles southwest of Cuba (AFP photo)

Cuba toughens stance on rafters

HAVANA (R) — Cuba,

seeking to halt departures of boat people in its side of a deal with the United States, said Saturday it was banning transport of rafts down to the coast and warned it would arrest people doing this.

An Interior Ministry statement read on the evening television news said the new measure would come into effect from 6 a.m. (1000 GMT) Sunday.

Dozens of rafters set out to sea Saturday despite a U.S.-Cuban accord on immigration aimed at ending the exodus from the Communist-ruled island. More were gathered on beaches near Havana preparing their departure.

The government, committed to stopping rafter departures in return for a huge increase in U.S. visas granted to Cubans, issued a statement late Friday "exhorting" citizens to stop setting out to sea and warning that from Tuesday force would be used if necessary to prevent people going.

The Interior Ministry statement Saturday said vehicles used to transport rafts down to the coast would be confiscated and their drivers arrested.

The move clearly aimed to limit further departures to people already on the shores and preparing to leave and prevent a rush of new rafters down to the sea before Tuesday.

On beaches such as Cojimar and Guanabo east of Havana, focal points for thousands of departures over the last month, rafters paid little attention to Friday's news.

Two trucks arrived in the afternoon carrying rafts, to join about 10 vessels already heaped on the sand at Guanabo.

The painted name of one unwieldy vessel, Los Locos (the madmen), reflected something of the reckless spirit with which really determined rafters have continued to set out and may well continue to do so.

"We're still going, we prefer to be at the base than here in this country," said one

rafter at Guanabo.

Since a policy switch by President Bill Clinton in mid-August, confirmed in the Friday accord, Cuban boat people picked up at sea by the U.S. Coast Guard have no longer been admitted to the United States, but have instead been sent to the U.S. naval base at Guantanamo on the tip of Cuba.

There was no way of predicting how quickly or completely moves by the government of President Fidel Castro would stem the flow of people leaving a country that is facing severe economic hardship and shortages of just about everything.

Some rafters have sold almost everything they own to buy boat material and may feel loath to dump their plans.

The government gave rafters three days to clearing up their vessels from the shores, and said boat material would not be confiscated. But it said from Tuesday, force would be used if necessary to stop people leaving.

An editorial in Granma indicated Cuba feels it has come out well from a crisis that began six weeks ago with a spate of hijackings of state-owned vessels towards the United States and then unprecedented street clashes in

Havana on Aug. 5.

The newspaper called the agreement "positive" and a "reasonable and just solution, mutually useful and realistic."

The U.S. Coast Guard said 147 Cuban refugees were picked up at sea in the early morning hours Sunday as Havana prepared to enforce new restrictions on the departure of makeshift rafts.

A Coast Guard spokesman said they had intercepted 13 rafts as of 5:00 a.m. (0900 GMT).

On Saturday, 551 Cuban boat people were intercepted in 55 rafts in the Florida Straits.

A U.S. soldier Saturday wounded a Cuban with a bayonet at the U.S. naval base in Guantanamo during a protest by 2,500 Cubans over the U.S.-Cuban immigration agreement signed Friday, the U.S. military said.

The U.S. Atlantic Command in Norfolk, Virginia, said the protest by Cuban migrants housed at the base lasted about 90 minutes.

The Cuban with a shoulder bayonet wound, aged 35, was in stable condition at the Guantanamo Bay Naval Hospital where he will remain overnight for observation, the military command said in a statement.

It was unclear if he was wounded by a U.S. Marine or army soldier, the command's Sergeant Michael Westerfield told Reuters in a telephone interview.

A second Cuban may have been cut in the shoulder by a bayonet and the statement said the military was checking this.

Describing the protest, Sgt. Westerfield said, "it was quite a crowd and there was a lot of bumping." At one point, Cubans ran towards a fixed line of soldiers with fixed bayonets.

A total of 25,998 Cubans and 19,117 Haitians are housed at Guantanamo on the tip of Cuba.

In Rio De Janeiro, Latin American and Caribbean presidents Saturday urged the United States to lift its economic embargo on Cuba and demanded Haiti's military leaders step down to allow a return to democracy.

In twin statements at the end of a two-day summit, the 14-member Rio Group called for a peaceful transition to democracy in Cuba and a peaceful solution to the Haitian crisis.

In the first statement, the presidents committed themselves to strengthening their ties with Cuba and fully reintegrate the island into the hemispheric fold.



A group of Cuban refugees signal a U.S. Coast Guard helicopter some twelve miles off the coast of Cuba as the seas begin to swell around their raft (AFP photo)

North hits at U.S., S. Korean games

TOKYO (AFP) — North

Korea Sunday accused the United States of staging war games with South Korea, souring the mood of U.S.-North Korea nuclear and rapprochement talks underway.

"The war gambles frantically staged by the warmongers of the U.S. imperialist aggression forces and the South Korean puppets almost every day are a grave challenge to detente and peace in the Korean peninsula," the official Korean Central News Agency said.

The agency, monitored here, said some 320 U.S. and South Korean fighter planes conducted air drills and 20 helicopter gunships staged a missile striking drill Wednesday.

About 1,850 South Korean troops also took up positions in border areas "under the eyes of our side" and "got fully prepared for firing, getting on our nerves," the news agency said.

It added that U.S. and South Korea forces staged war games from Sunday to Tuesday "in the sky, sea and ground" with hundreds of planes, weapons and tanks and hundreds of troops.

The usually harsh attack

from Pyongyang's propaganda mouthpiece came the day after North Korea and the United States opened talks in Geneva on the standoff over North Korea's suspected nuclear arms development.

In parallel talks in Pyongyang, the two countries were also discussing the possibility of opening liaison offices to improve bilateral ties.

South Korea has changed its diplomatic strategy to ease inter-Korean tension and draw Korea's new leadership into dialogue, Seoul newspapers reported Sunday.

South Korean leaders now think Kim Jong-il has fully consolidated his grip on power in the two months since the death of his father, President Kim Il-Sung, the JoongAng Ilbo said.

"We must be ready to resume inter-Korean dialogue as the leadership of North Korea appears to have secured stability," a senior government official was quoted as saying.

The official said South Korea had been under pressure from Washington to take conciliatory steps toward the North.

"The U.S. has asked us to end provocative remarks

while sending a clear signal at the same time to the North that progress in inter-Korean relations is a key to rapprochement between Washington and Pyongyang," he was quoted as saying.

The U.S. position will be clearly conveyed to North Korean leaders during current talks in Pyongyang on the exchange of liaison offices, the official told JoongAng.

The Pyongyang meeting started Saturday, at the same time as talks in Berlin on North Korea's nuclear reactors and safe storage of 8,000 spent fuel rods extracted from the Yongbyon five-megawatt reactor.

Diplomatic and security teams here now believe South Korea should consider ending the drawn out war of nerves with North Korea that started over consoliatory remarks by dissidents here on Mr. Kim Il-Sung's death, other newspapers said.

South Korea will offer to stop its propaganda campaign first while sending conciliatory messages to Pyongyang through Beijing and Washington, Mr. JoongAng said.

Israel ready to send police force to Haiti

TEL AVIV (Agencies) —

Israel, answering a U.S. request, said Sunday it would send a police unit to Haiti to help keep order following any military invasion the United States should carry out.

"Other is a decision to send an Israeli police force to participate in an international police force in Haiti to maintain public order and human rights," a police spokeswoman said.

Police Minister Moshe Shahal told reporters after the weekly cabinet meeting that he was sending a senior officer to the United States to study the U.S. request.

"I decided to send a senior officer to the United States to try to verify certain matters — the scope of the authority, the jurisdiction, how they are going to operate, all of those questions that need answers, and probably tonight or tomorrow morning he will leave for the United States," Mr. Shahal said.

The New York Times said Sunday the United States, concerned that an invasion of Haiti could set off a wave of assassinations and reprisals, was scrambling to create a Haitian force with international monitors after any military action.

With a likely date for an invasion approaching, President Bill Clinton and Vice President Al Gore telephoned a dozen world leaders over two days, the newspaper reported.

But the other countries pledged only about 200 of the 500 monitors needed. U.S. officials told the paper, Israel Radio, in a report that could not be immediately confirmed, said Israel would send about 30.

Belgium is prepared to send some 30-50 military police to Haiti to help the United Nations mission if Washington requests assistance. Prime Minister Jean-Luc Dehaene told Belgian Television Sunday.

Mr. Dehaene said the police could be sent "in the next few weeks" if Haiti's military leaders refuse to bow to United Nations demands to step down.

He said that after any eventual military intervention the soldiers could be used to back up local police.

U.S. army troops from an upstate New York base mobilised on Saturday for possible action in Haiti and a senior White House official said an invasion by a U.S.-led multinational force was "highly probable."

The troops are the first U.S. combat soldiers ordered to be prepared to go to Haiti and reflected Clinton administration efforts to increase the pressure on Haiti's military leaders to give up power or be driven out.

The commander of U.S. Navy and Marine operations off Haiti said military exercises in Puerto Rico have emboldened his soldiers for possible action in Haiti.

And even as Rear Adm. William H. Wright spoke to reporters during large-scale target practices on this island Friday, Pentagon officials were increasing the size of the forces involved.

They raised their troop count to 20,000 and activated 12 "ready reserve" ships to carry support equipment to Adm. Wright's nine-warship force off Haiti.

U.S. wants early Kashmir elections

NEW DELHI (R) — The

United States favours early elections in India's troubled Jammu and Kashmir state, its Ambassador Frank Wisner was quoted Sunday as saying.

India has been approving constitutional changes to delay elections to the state assembly after Muslim militants there launched a major separatist campaign four years ago.

"We would welcome early elections," the Press Trust of India (PTI) quoted Mr. Wisner as saying in an interview.

He said the interests of the Kashmiris should be considered in settling India's decades-old dispute with Pakistan over the territory

but Washington did not necessarily prefer a plebiscite.

"The U.S. has no preferred recommended solution. It is not in our responsibility to pick the device for testing the will of the people," PTI quoted Mr. Wisner as saying.

"It is not up to the U.S. to have a game plan or mediate without being asked for."

Pakistan, which has fought two of its three wars with India over Kashmir, has been pressing for a referendum in the region, citing a United Nations resolution that favoured a plebiscite.

Police and hospital sources

say that more than 17,000 people have died in the upris-

ing against New Delhi's rule over two-thirds of the former princely state. Pakistan rules the remainder.

Jammu and Kashmir is mainly Hindu India's only Muslim-majority state. India accuses Pakistan of arming the militants.

Thousands of people flooded the streets of the Kashmir state capital Saturday and shops downed their shutters to protest the killing of a teenager reportedly by paramilitary troops.

The strike, barely a day after soldiers killed 11 people in a bus when militants fired at them, highlighted the recurrent disruptions in the state

Comet fragments could collide with Earth

LONDON (R) — Fragments

from a newly-discovered comet have been under intense observation by astronomers who believe they could be on a collision course with Earth, Britain's Sunday Telegraph reported.

Their concern was heightened by the fact that the comet has broken up into fragments — just like comet Shoemaker-Levy 9 which spectacularly hit Jupiter in July.

The new comet, known as Machholz-2, was discovered last month by an American astronomer as it raced to-

wards the sun but as other observers turned their telescopes towards the object they found the comet had broken up.

By Saturday a total of five fragments had been seen — all on a path brings them with orbit of Earth.

Information from observatories so far suggests that if the fragments keep to their current trajectories they should avoid an impact with Earth but astronomers warned that it was extremely hard to predict their long-term behaviour.

Duncan Steel of the Anglo-Australian Observatory told the Telegraph that the influence of Jupiter would dominate their orbital behaviour.

"It's most likely that Jupiter will pick up the objects and throw them out of the solar system again. As far as we can tell, they should not hit the Earth in the next 10 years," he said, but added: "We might be wrong."

"It could happen in the next few decades. What we need are more observations so that we can get a more accurate orbit."

Shuttle crew exercises robot arm

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla.

(R) — Discovery astronauts gave the shuttle robot arm a workout Saturday as climate research with a space laser began in earnest.

Scientists on Earth studied the atmosphere over far-flung regions while the crew of five men and one woman hoisted and swung a boom almost as long as the shuttle's Canadian-made robot arm.

Launched Friday evening from Florida, the astronauts manoeuvred Discovery as needed Saturday to aim the laser gun while researchers used radio commands to fire brief pulses of light from the orbiting ship during its passes over the darkened half of the planet.

An onboard telescope me-

asured the shuttle — given researchers an idea of the composition and density of clouds over Russia, Indonesia and Australia.

One goal of the research is to determine how clouds and pollution contribute to global warming. Data gathered with the lidar in-space technology experiment, or LITE, so far was "truly impressive," project scientist Pat McCormick said in a Saturday evening news conference.

Tropical storm Debby, churning in the Caribbean south east of Puerto Rico, provided an unexpected research target. "This showed up quickly the usefulness of future spaceborne lidars to characterise the clouds associated with tropical

systems," Mr. McCormick said.

A recorder linked to the laser instrument apparently was not storing data Saturday and the astronauts spent considerable time trying to fix it.

Project manager John Rogers said it was "more of a nuisance than a mission critical item" because at least half the information was being beamed directly to the ground as it was obtained.

The National Aeronautics and Space Administration is developing lidar satellites for its unmanned Earth observing system which is planned for launch beginning in 1998.

Lidar operates on the same concept as radar, but instead of radio waves, it uses beams of light. The laser pulses last no more than 30 billionths of a second.

Murayama coalition loses key test in local election

TOKYO (AP) — Prime

Minister Tomiichi Murayama failed a test of strength Sunday as an alliance of opposition parties triumphed over his ruling coalition in a closely watched by-election for a parliamentary seat.

In conceding defeat after early returns, however, coalition candidate Jiro Mizuno, a former United Nations official, insisted: "This result is my personal responsibility and does not represent a judgment of the Murayama administration."

For the victorious opposition, former Prime Minister Tsutomu Hara said voters had judged the alliance between Mr. Murayama's left-leaning Socialists and the conservative Liberal Democrats as "an act of betrayal" and wanted a progressive new party.

The Liberal Democrats had governed Japan alone from 1955 until last year, when voter anger about rampant corruption brought down their government. They regained a share of

power by joining with their longtime rival Socialists in June.

Officials said that with 99 per cent of the vote counted, opposition candidate Yuzuru Tsuzuki, a Labour Ministry section chief, had 925,232 votes, or 43 per cent of the total, to 541,327, or 25 per cent, for Mizuno. In all, seven candidates were running for the upper house seat for central Aichi prefecture (state), which includes the industrial centre of Nagoya.

Mr. Tsuzuki will succeed the 1992 winner, Shoji Shimma, who was stripped of his seat after being found guilty of lying about his educational record in campaign literature.

The election came as Japan was moving from a system of many parties toward a competition between two large political groups — one centred around the Liberal Democrats and the other a union of self-proclaimed reformers. Opposition parties said last week they plan to unite as one party.

Pope: Nationalist war at odds with religion

SARAJEVO (R) — Pope

John Paul Sunday called on warring factions in former Yugoslavia to learn to live together again and said nationalist intolerance fuelling the conflict could not be blamed on religion.

In the first papal pilgrimage to the region torn apart by ethnic warfare, the Pontiff appealed for peaceful coexistence at an outdoor mass of 600,000 Roman Catholics in the Croatian capital Zagreb.

"Would it not perhaps be intolerable hypocrisy to repeat 'our father' while cultivating feelings of rancour and hatred, or even plans for reprisal and revenge?" the Pope said.

"No, it is not lawful to attribute to religion the phenomenon of nationalist intolerance which is raging in this region... no one can evade a path of unity and peace. Reason requires it, even before faith," he said.

The Pope told the crowd that Catholic Croats, Christ-

ian Orthodox Serbs and Slav Muslims were part of a multinational civilisation in the Balkans that had no room for bigotry and violence.

Croatians, Serbs and Slav Muslims in Croatia and Bosnia have often asserted their religion and the need to protect it in waging a war marked by massacres, mass expulsions and destruction of churches and mosques.

The Pope launched his 24-hour visit to Croatia Saturday with an impassioned plea for peace: "How much innocent blood has been spilled. How many tears have streaked the faces of mothers and children... however difficult, the peace effort is a sacred duty for every believer."

The Pope had to cancel a planned visit to the Bosnian capital Sarajevo after Serbs besieging the city refused to guarantee his safety.

In northern Bosnia, fighting appeared to have slowed in the Muslim enclave of Bihać a day after the United Nations threatened NATO

air strikes if Serbs continued shelling attacks on Bihać town.

The U.N. commander in Bosnia, Lieutenant-General Sir Michael Rose, had warned Serb forces Saturday they faced NATO air attack if they failed to halt shelling attacks on Bihać town, at the heart of a U.N.-declared "safe area."

Shelling of Bihać town had stopped but fighting continued on front lines around the enclave, with Serbs and the Muslim-led Bosnian army trading artillery and mortar attacks near Otoka, said Major Dacre Holloway, a U.N. spokesman in Sarajevo.

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The Pope received a rapturous welcome from tens of thousands of Croats who

lined the streets of Zagreb to watch him travel to the city's ancient cathedral in his bulletproof, glass-covered "popemobile."

"It is necessary to promote a culture of peace... which does not reject a healthy patriotism but keeps far away from the exasperation and exclusions of nationalism," he said in his speech at Zagreb Airport, at the start of his trip.

In the southwestern Bosnian city of Mostar, an anti-tank shell struck the headquarters of the European Union administration, an EU spokesman said.

The projectile was fired from the Croat-controlled side of Mostar and smashed into the high-rise building close to the bedroom of EU Administrator Hans Koschnick but he was not there at the time and no one was hurt.

Mr. Koschnick, who is to lead the reconstruction of the battered town, said he would not let himself be driven out by the overnight attack.

"The attack will not be a reason for me to leave Mostar," he told Germany's Sati Television station.

It was the first such incident since the EU took charge of Mostar in July after a peace settlement between Bosnian Croats and the Muslim-led Bosnian government army.

Bosnian Serbs meanwhile found themselves further isolated as big powers appeared ready to reward Serbian-led Yugoslavia for its blockade of its former proteges.

Diplomats said EU foreign ministers meeting in Germany gave their support Saturday to a plan for the conditional easing of sanctions against Yugoslavia in return for international monitoring of its embargo against Bosnian Serbs.



Pope John Paul II celebrates a mass in Croatia at St. Stephen's Cathedral. This papal visit is the pontiff's 62nd visit abroad in 16 years and his first to the former Yugoslavia (AFP photo)

Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation
Established 1972

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The Jordan Times is published daily except Fridays.

Subscription and advertising rates are available from the Jordan Times advertising department.

Human Rights File

Securing the right to peace

By Waleed Sadi

AS ESPOUSED by the international human rights treaties, human rights, include the right to peace. The pursuit of this equally important right is all the more relevant for the people of the Middle East in view of the ongoing peace process that aims to end the longstanding armed conflict between Israel and the Arab states. Needless to say, the five-decade long war condition in the area, due to the Arab-Israeli conflict, took a heavy toll on the peoples of the region. Many lost their lives while others suffered injuries or sustained material losses because of the 1947-48, 1967 and 1973 Arab-Israeli wars. These measured losses should be also added to the invisible sufferings and costs of these wars. There is no denying that many human rights were denied due to these tragic and painful sufferings and losses, among which is of course the right to peace.

Now that the parties have turned around and decided to seek peace instead of perpetuating the sterile methods of warfare and destruction, the big question is whether the states of the region could have initiated the peace process many years ago.

I think the answer to this question is yes. Many opportunities have been missed. The peace that we are seeking now could have been achieved decades ago.

To be sure, the British White Paper, proposed during the British mandate over Palestine, and the U.N. partition plan for Palestine in 1948 offered suitable opportunities for attaining peace in the Middle East. These two proposals could have offered the Palestinians more than what the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) is settling for.

Unfortunately, however, the Palestinian leadership did not learn enough from the errors of the past until it became too late to salvage anything meaningful for their people.

The next most tragic missed opportunity for the human right to peace in the region occurred when the late King Abdullah was assassinated in 1951. With his untimely death, the Palestinian people in particular and the Arab World in general lost an unredeemable historic opportunity to salvage much of what was lost in Palestine on bases that are again infinitely more honourable than the ones being entertained now by the PLO. True, it is too late to reverse the events pertaining to the genesis and termination of the Palestinian case. Yet it is never too late to set the record straight on all its past milestones. To begin with, had the

late King Abdullah lived the full duration of his natural life, 1967 Arab-Israeli war might not have occurred. I am saying this not so much because the founder of the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan would probably not have taken part in a clearly disastrous war imposed on Jordan, but rather because he would have succeeded by then to cement a viable peace process that could have saved the entire region a catastrophic war.

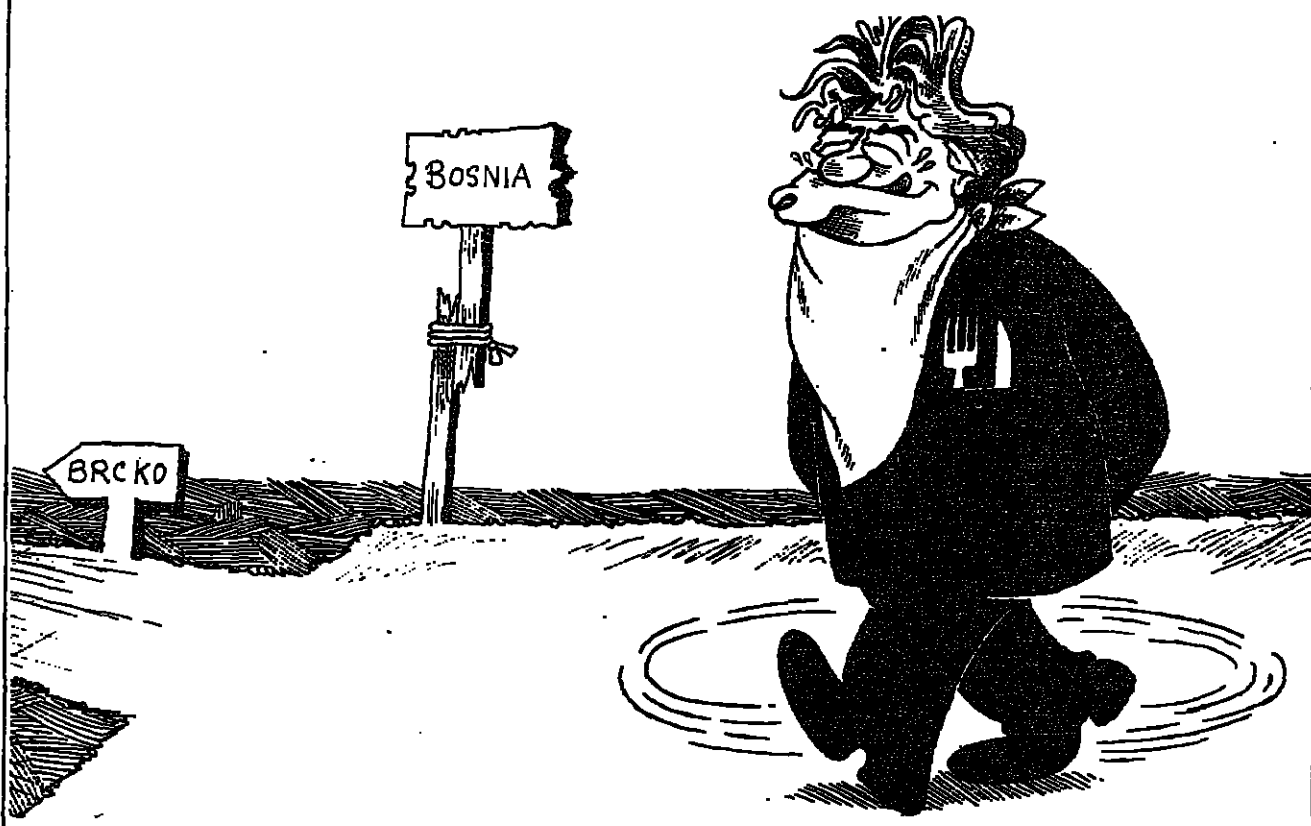
The assassination of the late King Abdullah, therefore, was a denial of the right to peace of the highest order. Think of the thousands whose lives could have been saved and the sufferings that could have been avoided had he lived.

Above all, think of the Palestinian national rights that could have been safeguarded had the Arab and non-Arab parties behind the crime not pulled the trigger.

More than 40 years after the death of King Abdullah, the Palestinian leadership and the other Arab governments strive painstakingly to begin what was effectively aborted on that Friday prayer time on July 20, 1951. The least that we can do to redeem the lost opportunity is to pay tribute to the Hashemite monarch, who wanted to do so much and so early for the Palestinian people and the Arab Nation, but was gunned down to nip the 1949 peace process in the bud.

I think it would be very much in order, therefore, to recall the late Hashemite monarch's vision for peace in the Middle East and cross check them with what is now being actively pursued by all the Arab parties. Suffice it to remember that had the Arab World, including the Palestinian people, followed the counsel of King Abdullah, the whole of East Jerusalem would have been in Arab hands; the entire West Bank plus border changes favourable to the Arab side would have been assured. This is not to mention that a geographically bigger Gaza Strip would have been earmarked for Arab sovereignty. Of course, neither the Golan Heights, nor southern Lebanon nor Sinai Desert would have ever fallen to Israeli hands in the first place had King Abdullah's life been spared. Given these undisputed facts, it seems that we as Jordanians and Arabs have not done enough to commemorate the late King. Now is the time to rectify these shortcomings with Jordan taking the first steps in that direction.

M. KAHIL



Can India rise to meet East Asia's challenge?

By Sunanda K. Datta-Ray

SINGAPORE — The visit to Singapore this week by Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao of India was a reminder of how much the relative fortunes of South and East Asia have changed in the 26 years since an Indian leader last paid an official visit to the island-state.

In 1968, India was Asia's most politically stable power, economically confident and militarily self-sufficient. But East Asia has forged ahead since then, and Mr. Rao is now making a brave attempt to catch up with many of the countries that one of his predecessors, the late Indira Gandhi, claimed in a slightly patronising tone in 1968 to accept as "friends and equals."

The economic liberalisation launched by the Rao government, now in its fourth year, has obviously improved the chances of bridging the gap. But the goal will continue to be elusive if India, on the rebound from socialism, pins all its hopes on foreign capital.

Two other dangers arise from India's population explosion and deteriorating relations with Pakistan.

The immediate risk is that the free market might end up to be just another mantra, like the strings of beads that Marie Stopes, long ago distributed to Indian village women to help them calculate during what periods they would be un-

likely to conceive, but which they hung up outside their doors as a talisman against conception.

Similarly, a country with a population of 900 million cannot expect the ripple effect of foreign investment to create jobs and ancillary openings for all, as 3,000 multinationals have done for Singapore's 3 million people.

In spite of a modest growth rate, India has a lot going for it. It has had a strong industrial base for more than a century. It has a tradition of original research in science and technology, and a sound administrative system and framework of corporate law. It may therefore be a waste of time and energy for India, with its giant steel mills, fertiliser projects, heavy-machinery factories and sophisticated service industries, to vie with China and Vietnam for foreign investment.

Instead, India should concentrate on mobilising domestic savings and hoarded gold. It should motivate millions of rich Indian entrepreneurs overseas to invest at home. And it should harness for productive use the tremendous capacity for hard work that alone enables nearly one-third of the population to brave floods and drought to bring a living from tiny plots of land, often using the most primitive agricultural methods.

Not that foreign investment can be dispensed with. But such capital

would be most productive if strategically deployed as a catalyst for indigenous growth. India is just too big, complex and, paradoxically, too advanced in some ways to benefit from the kind of comprador activity that has brought prosperity to Asian societies starting from scratch. Blindly allowing such concerns as Pierre Cardin, Kentucky Fried Chicken and Reebok to open shop will only siphon away the wealth of India's consumers and aggravate the politically dangerous and ethically unconscionable gap between rich and poor.

In 1951, India was the first country in the world to launch an official birth-control programme. Yet the fertility rate is still a high 1.9 per cent. Mr. Rao will have to find the political courage to revive family planning as a vigorous national effort to reduce numbers if he does not want the fruits of his economic reforms to be squandered. But the most daunting challenge that faces him is the need to mend fences with Pakistan, as he is already doing with China. This is a nettle that Mr. Rao must grasp if his economic reforms are to realise India's potential.

He can do so by making two points. India must make a special effort to convince Pakistan that it harbours no expansionist designs. Only the success of such an exercise can enable intelligent and enlightened leaders of Pakistan, such as

Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, to repudiate fundamentalist opinion and counter the military and the even more powerful intelligence service, whose trump card is that they alone can defend Pakistan against aggression.

In the long term, it may be even more important to establish economic links between India and Pakistan through expanded trade, joint business ventures and cooperative marketing efforts.

This is where multinational corporations can play a useful role. Being immune to South Asian power politics, they can open commercial channels between the two countries. Indian and Pakistani businessmen will most certainly follow their example.

Southeast Asia has much to teach Mr. Rao in this respect. Members of ASEAN, the Association of South East Asian Nations, have shown since Mrs. Gandhi visited Singapore that even bitter hostility and political rivalry can be subsumed in common economic interests. If Mr. Rao can adapt that lesson to improving New Delhi's ties with Beijing, there is no reason why he should not also try to do so with Islamabad.

The writer, a former editor of The Statesman newspaper in India, is an editorial consultant to The Straits Times in Singapore. He contributed this to the International Herald Tribune.

Cautious optimism among Tamils

By Rohan Gunasekera

Reuters

JAFFNA, Sri Lanka — A government move to end Sri Lanka's decade-old ethnic war has unleashed a wave of fresh hopes for peace in the battle-weary northern stronghold of the Tamil Tiger separatist fighters.

"The atmosphere is entirely different," a resident of the northern Jaffna peninsula said after the government's announcement at the end of August that it would ease a four-year-old economic blockade on the Tiger's home base.

In return, the rebels have offered a ceasefire and agreed to unconditional peace talks.

"We have confidence in the new government, which eased the economic embargo even before talking to the rebels," the residents said.

But not everyone shares the mood of cautious optimism that prevails among the peninsula's minority Tamils.

"People are longing for peace, but I won't believe it until it actually happens," said a resident who identified himself only as Ranjith.

He noted that previous peace initiatives in the bloody war for independence had failed.

More than 30,000 people have died since the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE) rebels began their separatist campaign for the island's 2.5 million Tamils, alleging discrimination at the hands of the majority Sinhalese.

In a bid to end the conflict, the New People's Alliance government, which won last month's general election under the leadership of Prime Minister Chandrika Kumaratunga, eased restrictions on the transport of goods to the north.

But a ban remains on fuel and other items which the army says could help the Tigers' war effort.

Ms. Kumaratunga also offered, both during the

campaign and immediately after forming her government, to meet the Tigers for peace talks.

Tiger chieftain Velupillai Prabhakaran responded by offering a ceasefire, agreeing to unconditional talks and freeing 10 captured policemen.

The government has asked the Tigers, who have said they are prepared to consider a federal alternative to a separate state, to name an emissary to work out details of the peace talks.

"Hopes are high," said a Tamil journalist. "People expect something from the new government. But everything depends on the position taken by the LTTE."

Few residents of the Tigers' stronghold in Jaffna dare to speak openly against the rebels, who are still regarded with fear despite substantial support in the region.

Those who do raise their voice have been killed or held in rebel detention camps, residents and human rights groups say. The Tigers deny the existence of the camps.

Jaffna still bears the scars of years of fighting between the Tigers and the Sri Lankan and Indian armies, the latter sent in 1987 as part of a failed Indian effort to end the war.

Many buildings have been destroyed. Others bear holes from bullets and shrapnel.

The region has been without electricity since the rebels blew up power lines in the mid-1980s. The ban on fuel has hit transport badly — the few vehicles on the roads run on kerosene.

The Tigers smuggle in their own fuel supplies, however, often by making the 30-minute speedboat run across the narrow Palk Strait from the south Indian state of Tamil Nadu.

The peninsula's population of more than 500,000 — it was one million when the war began but tens of thousands have fled the fighting — lives in fear of air and artillery attacks.

N. Irish peace said on track despite 'hiccups'

By Maggie Fox

Reuters

BELFAST — The governments of both Britain and Ireland say Northern Ireland's peace process is still on track despite a "hiccup" caused when five Irish Republican Army (IRA) prisoners attempted a violent jail-break.

Government sources in Dublin said British Prime Minister John Major and his Irish counterpart Albert Reynolds spent about 20 minutes on the telephone discussing the effects of last week's Irish Republican Army ceasefire.

"They agreed that every day that passes, the peace process is becoming more consolidated," one Irish government source said. "They both accepted they were moving at somewhat different speeds but that they were going in the same direction."

The Dublin source said both men expressed concern about the jailbreak attempt in England of six men, including five IRA prisoners. The escapees shot a prison guard before they were caught and unionist politicians in Northern Ireland said this constituted a breach of the IRA ceasefire.

Neither government has said it broke the ceasefire pledge.

"The breakout was referred to and they both agreed that there would be hiccups along the line — but they would not allow them to derail the process," the source said.

Several spokespeople for Sinn Fein, the political wing of the IRA, expressed embarrassment about the breakout. "It certainly does not look good," said one Sinn Fein local councillor, who asked not to be named.

Sinn Fein issued a statement saying the jailbreak did not count as a breach of the ceasefire, even as irate

unionist politicians, who want Northern Ireland to remain British and are suspicious of the ceasefire, said it did.

Many Protestant unionists fear London has made secret promises to diminish Northern Ireland's British status in return for the IRA truce, and doubt the guerrilla group has really renounced violence.

Mr. Reynolds has wholeheartedly embraced the ceasefire. He met Sinn Fein President Gerry Adams on Tuesday and urged Britain to grasp the chance for peace.

But Mr. Major, who once said it would "turn his stomach" to meet Mr. Adams, has been more cautious. He says he needs proof it will really last before he keeps a promise made in December to include Sinn Fein in talks on the future of Northern Ireland.

The armed Protestant extremist groups are more doubtful of the IRA's good intentions and tried to kill a Sinn Fein councillor in the province on Saturday.

The outlawed Ulster Volunteer Force (UVF) admitted planting a booby-trap bomb on the back door of the house of farmer and local councillor John Hurl.

Mr. Hurl said his daughter Mairead, 24, discovered the booby trap hidden in a lunchbox. Police spent three hours disarming and destroying the bomb.

"I thought the community generally was in for some peace, but evidently not," Mr. Hurl said. "Everybody was looking forward to a return to normality. Some people obviously have different views."

Protestant extremists have now attacked four times since the ceasefire took effect last week. They killed one Catholic man, shot at another and exploded a car bomb outside the Sinn Fein press office in Belfast.

Cairo conference

Continued from page 1
The conference was held in Cairo, Egypt, and was attended by representatives from various countries. The main agenda was to discuss the current situation in the Middle East and to find ways to resolve the ongoing conflicts. The conference was a success, with many agreements being reached. The participants expressed their commitment to peace and stability in the region. The conference was a significant step towards resolving the conflicts in the Middle East.

This is the second of a series of articles on the impressions that the writer got during a recent 10-day stay in the Republic of Yemen.

By P. V. Vivekanand

NEITHER PRESIDENT Ali Abdullah Saleh's General People's Congress (GPC) nor the mainstream Islamist Al Islah Party could fill the political vacuum left behind by the demise of the Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP) in southern Yemen after the civil war. But that has not stopped either from vying for domination of the south.

Foreign diplomats and analysts believe that both parties are aware of their shortcomings and of the strong hurdles they face in winning the hearts and minds of the southerners.

"But the GPC is more pragmatic than Islah, which is trying to impose its will by force in the south, and the president appears to be toying with the idea of rehabilitating the YSP in the south if only to counter the Islah approach," said a Western diplomat in Sanaa, the federal capital.

According to the diplomat as well as Yemeni sources, one of the ideas under serious consideration is a possible return of Ali Nasser Mohammad, a YSP leader who was ousted as president of what was South Yemen in 1986.

Mr. Mohammad, who now lives in Damascus, has been closely involved in efforts to end the Aden-Sanaa crisis before it erupted into violence in May after four years of united Yemen and is seen by many as a moderate politician despite his tough role of the south in the early 80s.

Rivals in the YSP rose up against him in a bloody coup in January 1986. Mr. Mohammad and many of the army units loyal to him fled to North Yemen but their efforts to stage a comeback to Aden did not succeed. Mr. Mohammad moved to self-exile in Damascus along with some of his close aides. But the bulk of his army units remained in North Yemen.

In fact, it was those army units who led the government assault on Aden and entered the city to end the civil war in July.

Diplomats say that it was a well-calculated move by the Sanaa government to use the pro-Mohammad forces to be its vanguard in Aden. Apart from their military skills and familiarity with "every bit of the nooks and corners of Aden, their very presence in the government forces was a political strategy to convince the residents of the city that it was not a purely northern-led move to take over Aden," said the Western diplomat.

But what the government did not expect was the vengeful rampage staged by some of the pro-Mohammad

Winning the southerners — Sanaa weighing its options



Children play at the desecrated tombs near the Sheikh Aidarous Mosque in the Crater area of Aden (Photo by P.V. Vivekanand)

mad officers in Aden. Many of them remembered very well their forced departure from the city in 1986 and sought to exact revenge and reclaim their "rights."

In one typical incident, a pro-Mohammad colonel rushed to his family house in an Aden suburb and took it over from a U.N. agency, which had rented it from another southerner who had occupied it when the colonel fled the city in 1986. Today, the agency is running from pillar to post in Aden trying to recover its records and equipment from the building.

Although many pro-Mohammad soldiers are blamed for the wave of looting and violence that followed the fall of Aden, many residents of the city see them as a better option than the Al Islah fighters who also entered Aden when it fell and who are now trying to impose Islamic law on Aden.

"At least they (pro-Mohammad elements) are south erners and would be more understanding of the

people's problems," said Layla, a schoolteacher. "We would accept anything but Islah."

Awareness of that sentiment seems to be behind President Saleh's consideration of a possible political rehabilitation for Mr. Mohammad.

"Contacts are continuing with the former president in Damascus, and it is quite possible that he could stage a return to Yemen as the leading southern politician and a possible member of the government," said a highly-placed Yemeni source.

Technically, Mr. Mohammad will have to be elected to parliament before he could assume office in the executive authority. Diplomats attach little significance to that aspect and say some formula would be found to constitutionally legitimise Mr. Mohammad's role in government.

However, Al Islah, which has vowed to obliterate YSP from Yemeni political life, has already moved in a direction aimed at preemp-

ting such an eventuality. Al Islah deputies have proposed a law that call for the "prosecution and punishment of all those involved in the January 1986 massacre" in Aden, including Mr. Mohammad.

While the move is not expected to be endorsed by the legislature, given the limited voting power of Al Islah, it shows the anxiety of the Islamist party to avert the emergence of a strong and liberal southern leader loyal to President Saleh.

"It is a cat-and-mouse game between Islah and the GPC," said an Asian diplomat in Sanaa. "For all technical purposes, both are coalition members and on very friendly terms, but the reality on the ground is that the two are locked in a battle to outwit the other and gain an upper hand."

"Obviously Islah wants to block the return of Mr. Mohammad, who, Islah leaders are well aware, could be President Saleh's man in the south and very acceptable to the south-

erners," said the diplomat. "The question is: Will he be happy with playing the role of an eminent politician in Aden or would he want a prominent role in government?"

"In the latter case, it is unlikely that he would settle for anything less than a vice-presidency or premiership," said the diplomat.

If Mr. Mohammad is appointed vice-president as a compromise, then Islah would claim the premiership, something that the GPC wants to avert at any cost if only because of the problems that the country might face with an Islamist as head of government at a time when it wants to liberalise the country.

An option available to President Saleh is a diluted vice-presidency being offered to Al Islah. But it is unlikely that the Islamists would settle for that.

If they do, then they would demand key cabinet posts to make up for the lost clout of vice-president,

again causing problems and headaches for the liberal government.

The National Assembly this week began debate on constitutional amendments that are likely to be endorsed to favour increased powers for the president, the abolition of the five-member presidential council, a clear definition of the powers of a sole vice-president, moves towards a free market economy and decentralised administration.

Also in the cards are constitutional amendments that call for making Islamic Sharia "the source" of all laws instead of "the main source."

President Saleh is expected to name a new government as soon as the constitutional amendments are endorsed and take effect.

As the Islah-GPC battle of wits continues in Sanaa, Adenis are worried.

"There is a clear political vacuum in Aden," said Hussein Aulahi, a leading lawyer in the port city.

"Neither the GPC nor Al Islah is capable of filling that vacuum, and as they con-

tinue their struggle, we Adenis are paying a high price."

Aden residents complain of a lack of law and order and proper law enforcement agencies. Large numbers of senior officials from the south have been replaced by northerners who, residents say, know little of the ways of life in the south.

Many of the new officials are Islah supporters, who are accused of trying not only to reverse the liberal lifestyle of Adenis but also to plant as many Islamists in administrative positions and present a fait accompli to the central government in Sanaa.

Southern police units "are afraid to move out of their stations lest Al Islah fighters take over the building and kick them out," said a grocery owner in the Crater district of Aden. "It has happened in several areas already."

Another Aden resident, a former government employee who also insisted on not being named for fear of reprisal, said: "Islamic style floggings for crimes deemed

un-Islamic are common in police stations where Islah fighters are present."

In effect, the practices of Al Islah forces are similar to those of the "Mutawaa" (religious police) in Saudi Arabia, residents say.

Accounts of Al Islah behaviour include incidents where couples moving together in the city are asked to provide proof of their relationship, "surprise raids" on restaurants to enforce a ban on alcohol, and sexual segregation in schools.

In addition to enforcing the strict Islamic dress code in Aden, which was once famous for its liberal way of life under the British colonial power until 1967 and then the Marxist Socialist regime of the YSP, Al Islah is also trying to get rid of as many women from the government and public life.

At least one incident was reported of an Islah fighter firing around the feet of a woman who dared to lift her head-to-toe cloak a little while walking on a sewage-strewn street. "I won't miss your legs next time you show them in public," the man reportedly told the terrified woman.

South Yemen was the first Arab country to have a woman judge, who has now been given "unlimited leave." Similarly, women lawyers in the city have been told to go home and "look after the children."

Al Islah is not directly blamed for last week's assault on two mosques containing the remains of Islamic holy men revered as saints by Aden residents but deemed blasphemous by puritan elements of the faith such as the Wahabi sect in Saudi Arabia.

A group of men, said to be Wahabis from Abiyah and Lahej provinces surrounding Aden, descended on the port city early on Sept. 2. Described as members of the Jihad group, they dynamited parts of a mosque in the Sheikh Othman district and desecrated a tomb inside. Similarly, at another mosque in the Crater area, the extremists ransacked the building, broke open the 500-year-old tomb of a religious leader as well as tombs outside the mosque and set the bones ablaze along with old scripts that were found inside the building.

Unconfirmed reports say dozens were killed in the battles that ensued. The city lived in sheer terror for the next three days as clashes erupted between security forces and extremists in various parts, shattering the hopes of many that the calm in Aden after the two-month civil war there to stay.

Mr. Aulahi, the lawyer, agreed that the central government could not be held solely responsible for the situation in Aden, given the delicate political balance that governs ties between the GPC and Islah. But, he warned, "the vacuum in Aden should be filled as soon as possible if an explosion is to be averted."

Yemen wants to boost trade

(Continued from page 12)

said a Western diplomat. However, Egyptians in Yemen do not enjoy privileges similar to those extended to Jordanians and Iraqis if only because Egypt does not offer reciprocal treatment to Yemenis. The number of Egyptians living in Yemen is very limited.

Diplomats noted that

Egypt is introducing a prior visa requirement for all Yemenis entering its territory as of Oct. 1. "This is going to deal another severe blow to Cairo-Sanaa relations, which are already strained by what many Yemenis see as Egypt's indirect support for the southern secessionists in the civil war," said an Arab diplomat.

Cairo conference stalled

(Continued from page 1)

by priests and nuns. But both Vatican and Islamic countries have taken pride in the influence they wield, claiming success in their campaigns.

The Vatican said it had succeeded because the conference ruled out abortion as a means of family planning. And Iran, which ignored opposition at home to attend the conference in its self-proclaimed role as the defender of Islamic values, also maintained it had achieved "very good results."

It has even altered its delegation to "include religious experts," Iranian Deputy Health Minister Hossein Malik Afzali told AFP. "Most of the subjects under discussion have nothing to do with population, but with culture and society," he added.

"Iran has seized the opportunity to showcase its family

It is very important to us... We don't believe in these families called 'unions.' That word doesn't exist in our country," Mr. Afzali added. And thus sex education should only be given to those "who are getting married" and not to teenagers because it "could affect their morality."

Pressure from Saudi Arabia and the Vatican caused the Lebanese boycott of the conference, an Egyptian newspaper said.

"Lebanon's decision to boycott the conference stems from the Vatican pressuring it to support its point of view of the conference," Al Ahran quoted the secretary-general of the Lebanese family planning society, Tawfik Oseiran, as saying.

Al Ahran said Mr. Oseiran listed Saudi Arabia's snub of the Cairo conference as another reason for his country's absence.

Israel hails Assad speech

(Continued from page 1)

Heights in exchange for a three-year trial normalisation period. Syria stuck to its demand for an immediate full withdrawal.

Mr. Rabin told German radio Syria was currently refusing secret contacts, but said he hoped Mr. Christopher could help bring the sides together.

"We think that with the help of the United States — hopefully — we can find a basis that will allow us to meet in secret or openly," Mr. Rabin said. "But the best thing would be bilateral, secret negotiations."

Mr. Rabin once more set out the basis on which Israel was prepared to pull back from the Golan Heights. He said the four elements of the peace deal with Syria which Israel was seeking like

the four legs of a table — all of which were required together to provide stability.

"In principle we agree to a withdrawal," he said. "How far we pull back depends on a schedule... we have no obligation to the Syrians to make a complete withdrawal."

"Third, we need years for a withdrawal, and after the first geographically limited phase we would like a normalisation of relations, comparable to that we had with Egypt (after Israel's pullback from Sinai), and independently of which border we withdraw to, once an agreement is reached."

"And fourth, security measures. We don't have a 250-kilometre wide Sinai (Peninsula), which separates Israel from Egypt west of the Nile. So Israel is much more ex-

posed to Syria, as far as security goes."

Analysts described Mr. Assad's speech, broadcast live on radio and television and repeated in news bulletins, as encouraging.

"President Assad made it clear in the speech that Syria wants to reach a peaceful settlement with Israel and all it wants is implementation of U.N. resolutions which call for Israeli withdrawal from the lands it occupies," one analyst said.

"It is Israel's turn now to show its readiness for peace by accepting withdrawal from the Syrian lands it occupied in 1967," he said.

One diplomat said the speech also constituted a good sign for Mr. Christopher.

Diplomats said President Assad made no reference to remarks by Israeli leaders which had apparently angered Damascus.

meanwhile the number of Israelis killed by Palestinians has jumped more than 30 per cent in the year since the signing of the peace agreement with the PLO.

Peace Watch, which calls itself a non-partisan Israeli organisation, found that 65 Israelis were killed between Sept. 9, 1993 and last Thursday, Sept. 8, compared with 49 over the previous 12 months.

Mr. Arafat pledged in a letter to Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on Sept. 9, 1993 to renounce violence and to recognise Israel.

A monitoring group said

Majali reports signs of thaw

(Continued from page 1)

secured a reference to those sites in the declaration, they would have fallen under the control of the Israeli ministry of religions.

Addressing the issue of refugees, Dr. Majali pointed out that the issue was included in the common agenda signed by the Kingdom and Israel on Sept. 14, 1993, adding that talks on 1967 refugees "will begin soon" in the framework of a joint committee that includes the Kingdom, Egypt, the PLO and Israel.

The prime minister said the government would not force normalisation of ties with Israel on the people, saying the abnormal situation that existed between the two countries would end only when its causes were removed.

Peace has to bring economic benefits to the Kingdom and signs of that have already started to appear, the prime minister said.

Dr. Majali said the government had no information to

confirm reports that about \$40 million were embezzled in Royal Jordanian purchase contracts.

"The government cannot act on rumours," he said, adding that it would take action if it gathers sufficient evidence that there were violations of the law in the company. He said the government had asked the prosecutor general to check the credibility of reports about alleged embezzlement and to take action if he collected sufficient evidence.

The prime minister brushed aside suggestions that his government was heading towards a confrontation with Parliament when it convenes late next month, saying the two authorities cooperate for the benefit of the country. He refused suggestions that the deputies have indicated that the government should resign when 61 of them sent His Majesty King Hussein a letter in which they severely criticised the government's acts and policies.

He said, however, that the Lower House of Parliament has the right to criticise the government and its policies.

The opposition has the right to differ with the government but law should regulate the way it operates, he said.

Dr. Majali also rejected reports that he was angered by the formation of the Royal Commission for Modernisation and Development because it encroached on the authorities of the executive.

He said the Royal commission will work as a task force to deal with important issues outside the constraints of the usual government routine work.

Responding to a question on the "rudeness and inefficiency" with which some civil servants treat the citizens, Dr. Majali said the government has taken action to improve the performance of the bureaucracy but reform will come gradually.

He urged citizens to report misconduct by civil servants so that the executive authority will be able to rectify the situation.

Self-rule donors to meet

(Continued from page 1)

months, restricting him to the port city of Haifa. The order also confined him to indoors after dark and barred him from contacts with other suspects, Israel radio said.

On Friday night, a Palestinian from the village of Halhoul near Hebron was shot in the head and critically wounded, army officials said. Palestinian witnesses said the shots were fired from a passing car with yellow Israeli

licence plates.

Later Friday night, a car fitted with the description was stopped at an army roadblock near Hebron. The driver and passenger, a man and a woman, said they had shot in the air near Halhoul after being stoned, Israel radio said.

However, the car showed no signs of damage by stones, and the two were arrested for questioning, the radio report said.

A monitoring group said

Scientists warn of catastrophe

(Continued from page 12)

and some are expected to be gone entirely by the end of the next century. Several plants and animal species dependent on the forest for survival will become extinct.

The UCS says that up to one third of all living spe-

cies may be extinct by the year 2100. With the species' extinction will come the loss of biological equilibrium they create.

The UCS statement concludes with an appeal to governments and people worldwide. "We must recognise the Earth's limited capacity to provide for us.

We must recognise its fragility. We must no longer allow it to be ravaged. This ethic must motivate a great movement, convincing reluctant leaders and reluctant governments and reluctant peoples themselves to effect the needed change."

European Union finance ministers declare end to severe recession

LINDAU, Germany (AP) — European Union (EU) finance ministers Saturday declared an end to the severe recession that had gripped many of their economies and thrown nearly 18 million people out of work.

"The recession is over," said German Finance Minister Theo Waigel, who was host of a daylong meeting of the dozen EU nations at a resort on Lake Constance in southern Germany. "The union is definitely on a growth pattern again."

EU economics chief Henning Christophersen presented updated projections showing the group's economy would expand at a better pace of two per cent this year. Last spring, he predicted the economy, after adjustment for inflation, would grow 1.6 per cent this year, after contracting in 1993.

With a better economic

performance, the unemployment rate was projected to run this year at about the same pace as the 10.9 per cent of 1993. It had been expected to surge to a whopping 11.6 per cent this year.

Even so, ministers said the jobs rate remained too high and urged the nations to continue efforts to get millions of the unemployed back to work.

"The situation is still, of course, far from satisfactory," said Mr. Waigel.

Last December, the union agreed on a massive public works programme that would pour billions of dollars into telecommunications, energy and transportation networks to open up jobs. The goal was to create 15 million new jobs by the end of the decade.

The plan also called for the nations to reduce obstacles to hiring new people, pare certain taxes on employers to cut

their costs of hiring workers and trim regulatory measures that hinder employment.

"We mustn't lose interest in the subject," said Britain's Chancellor of the Exchequer Kenneth Clarke. "Our ability to tackle these things is improved with economic recovery."

Mr. Christophersen said the nations had gone heavily into debt during the downturn.

"We are now coming out of the recession with the highest level of public debt... in Europe since the World War II," he said.

The nations must get their public finances in order before they can enter the group's new monetary union, which will set up a joint central bank by 1999 to issue a common currency.

The merger is the centerpiece of the treaty on European Union, which went into effect last November to forge closer economic and political

ties among the nations.

Under the treaty, an economic and monetary union could be formed as early as Jan. 1, 1997, if a majority of nations meet tough criteria of low inflation and interest rates, stable currencies and healthy public finances.

With or without a majority, the union must begin no later than Jan. 1, 1999. Britain and Denmark have opted out of the project.

During their discussions, the ministers agreed to maintain the admission requirement of modest budget deficits and public debt.

The EU's executive agency cited 10 of the 12 governments for running up hefty deficits.

Belgium, France, Germany, Luxembourg and the Netherlands are considered likely to be in the first wave of countries forming a monetary union, with others joining later.

Arab refining output set for sharp rise

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Arab refining production capacity is set to increase sharply in the coming years as Iraq and Kuwait press ahead with repairs to war-damaged facilities and other members plan major expansion projects.

The rehabilitation of refineries in Iraq and Kuwait has already pushed up capacity in the 22-member Arab League by around eight per cent to 5.73 million barrels per day (b/d) in 1993 from 5.30 million b/d in 1992.

According to the Organisation of Arab Petroleum Exporting Countries (OAPEC), Iraq's refining capacity jumped to 621,000 b/d in 1993 from 318,000 b/d in 1992 following the repair of most of its 10 refining units.

Kuwait's output rose to 565,000 b/d from 368,000 b/d after the reoperation of the war-damaged Shuwaiba refinery.

Plans are also underway to boost the capacity of the emirate's three refineries to around 830,000 b/d by the

end of 1995, the Kuwait-based 10-nation OAPEC said in a study.

Saudi Arabia, the world's biggest oil producer and exporter, accounted for nearly one third of the total Arab refining output, with a capacity of 1.62 million b/d in 1993.

But there are plans to increase production with the expansion of existing refineries and setting up of new processing units.

The projects include raising the capacity of Saudi's Ras Tanura refinery to 300,000 b/d from 265,000 b/d and the setting up of a hydrocracking unit with a production capacity of nearly 100,000 b/d in addition to repairs to distillation units at Ras Tanura and Mina Saud damaged by Iraqi shelling during the Gulf war.

Another project includes building a lubricant plant at Yanbu refinery at a cost of \$200 million.

The project, carried out by Petromin, will produce around two million barrels per year when it is completed in two years.

The United Arab Emirates (UAE), another key Gulf oil producer, has also embarked on projects to expand its two refineries. The \$80 million project will push capacity to around 205,000 b/d from 185,000 b/d.

The projects in the Gulf are part of overall expansion plans in the energy sector to face growing domestic and world demand.

The bulk of the increase in oil capacity will come from these four Gulf nations, which sit on more than 550 billion barrels, accounting for around 55 per cent of the world's total proven crude reserves.

According to the Dammam-based Arab Petroleum Investment Corporation, energy expansion projects in the Arab World are estimated to cost around \$93 billion by 2000.

The figure includes \$19 billion for refining and \$47 billion for gas liquefaction.

Outside the Gulf, Egypt is planning to build a new refinery west of Alexandria at a cost of around \$5 billion and a capacity of 500,000 b/d. Another refinery is planned in Sinai with capacity of 150,000 b/d.

In Lebanon, the government has approved a project to repair a refinery in the northern port of Tripoli at a cost of \$100 million. The project also includes boosting its capacity to 50,000 b/d from 20,000 b/d.

The refinery and another key unit in the southern port of Zahrani were badly damaged during the 15-year civil war that ended in 1990.

Oman has no local expansion plans but it has signed an agreement with the Indian Bharat Petroleum Corp. Ltd to build a 120,000-b/d capacity refinery in the Indian central town of Bihra at a cost of \$1.72 billion.

The OAPEC study showed Arab states had 59 refineries in 1993, of which 47 are based in OAPEC. The organisation also accounts for more than 85 per cent of the total Arab refining output.

World Bank bullish on the Philippines

MANILA (AFP) — The World Bank has praised Philippine President Fidel Ramos for boosting private-sector confidence with key reforms, but said more needed to be done to transform this into greater investment and growth.

The World Bank office here said in a statement that an assessment it carried out "highlights the growing confidence of the private sector in the Philippine economy."

"It reflects to a large degree the government's success in restoring macro-economic stability, the progress made in liberalising the economy and the efforts made in dealing the pervasive infrastructural constraints, particularly power," the statement said.

The Philippine economy grew by a surprising 4.84 per cent in the first quarter of 1994 and even higher growth figures are widely expected for the whole of this year.

The bank cited new business opportunities through Manila's privatisation programme and the encouragement of private investment in infrastructure.

Arab Gulf states urged to learn from Asian economic tigers

ABU DHABI (AFP) — Arab Gulf states should copy the development experience of Japan and other Asian economic giants if they want to achieve adequate growth in non-oil exports, a former World Bank expert said Sunday.

The six-nation Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) already has a developed infrastructure and other advantages absent in those Asian nations before they started to record the fastest growth rates in the world in the early 1960s, Luweis Hubeika wrote in the United Arab Emirates (UAE) daily Al Khaleej.

Mr. Hubeika, who served as a senior Middle East economy expert for several years

in the World Bank, named Japan, Taiwan, Singapore, Thailand, South Korea, Hong Kong, Indonesia and Malaysia as the principal Asian economic giants.

He said the eight nations registered an annual growth rate of 5.5 per cent between 1965 and 1990, compared with 2.3 per cent in most industrialised countries, 0.2 per cent in Africa and 1.8 per cent in the Middle East and Latin America.

"Gulf states could benefit from the Asian experience. Actually they can set out from an even stronger base, which is the existence of an excellent infrastructure and enormous financial capabilities and natural resources

which were almost absent in those Asian tigers," he said.

Citing studies by the World Bank and other international institutions, he attributed the economic success of the Asian tigers to political and social stability, strong governments with clear development strategies, the building of a modern infrastructure, intensive training and education programmes and wise financial policies.

He praised the policy of concentrating on the industrial sector, which surged from 32 per cent of gross domestic product (GDP) in 1965 to 45 per cent in 1990.

Other factors behind their success included efficient

management and manpower, control of budget deficits, and heavy investment in export-oriented industries.

Mr. Hubeika said the GCC states — Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Bahrain and the UAE — could follow the example of the Asian tigers in pursuing an industrial policy aimed at reducing reliance on unstable oil earnings, which still provide more than 80 per cent of total GCC income.

"GCC states are also seeking to tackle their budget deficits and they now enjoy political, economic and social stability," he said.

The success of any future economic moves hinged on

the training of an indigenous labour force to replace foreign workers, he said.

The GCC states should also focus on export-oriented industries, especially since most member states had not joined the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade (GATT). "The focus should be on products which could give GCC state a competitive edge in other markets, such as petrochemicals," Mr. Hubeika said the GCC

states, which control more than 40 per cent of the world's oil, should also revise subsidies and other domestic economic policies and allow the private sector to play a leading role in development.

"The private sector can play a major part in economic development. GCC states should follow the example of those Asian stars in finding the legal frameworks to expand the role of the private sector," he concluded.

India bank chief calls for revamp of labour laws

BOMBAY (R) — India must introduce laws making it easier to hire and fire workers as part of its sweeping economic reforms, the head of the country's largest bank said.

Dipankar Basu, chairman of the State Bank of India (SBI), told Reuters in a weekend interview that the reform programme would be weakened and international investors deterred unless India tackled the thorny problem of overmanning.

"The only way that Indian industry can become efficient is by balancing its workforce," said Mr. Basu, whose bank employs 225,000 people.

Mr. Basu recognised that introduction of what in India has become known as an

"exit policy" governing labour relations was unlikely to be introduced before the latest round of elections is completed in early 1996.

But he said a national debate should be opened up.

"I don't think there can be just an exit policy," he said. "We have to create alternative jobs, to improve social infrastructure, have better pension plans."

The country's top commercial banker said trade unions had to be reassured that changes in India's rigid labour laws would help create jobs rather than erode them.

"How many companies don't hire staff because they are afraid they will become permanent?" he asked. "We must move away from this fear complex."

"Rigidities in the labour market are coming in the way of creating jobs," he said.

India has introduced sweeping economic reforms since Prime Minister P.V.

Narasimha Rao came to power in mid-1991, dismantling four decades of socialist-style controls, lowering trade barriers and floating the rupee.

But the ruling Congress Party has failed to reform pro-worker labour legislation, which most industrialists believe gives excessive job security, for fear of the impact at the polls.

"I don't think a lot of fundamental issues will be raised before the election and that is understandable," said Mr. Basu.

Assembly elections in 10 Indian states will be held between December and March. National elections must be held before June 1996.

Finance Minister Manmohan Singh says reform must be tempered by political realism. He has decided to leave reform of labour legislation until the economy picks up, and more jobs are

being created.

He has set up a fund to help those made redundant in the huge state sector. India has 237 state companies, of which 104 are loss-making.

Officially, India has around 40 million or 13 per cent unemployed out of a workforce of 300 million. But millions more have only part-time jobs, very low incomes, or are not recorded in Indian statistics.

Foreign investors, particularly the Japanese, say an exit policy is essential for attracting strong capital flows into the country. Overseas want to avoid complex legal procedures if factories need to be closed or workers laid off.

While the government has embarked on a process of selling off up to 49 per cent of state companies, it has avoided the large-scale retrenchment that the World Bank says is needed for some loss-making enterprises.

Mr. Basu said that new industries attracted by the reforms may not create many new jobs because of increased automation and efficiency.

So the government must find other ways to create jobs, particularly in building the major road network and other infrastructure needed for the country to succeed.

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TRAPSY
PORTSY

Answer: A

Yesterday's Jumble: SOAPY
Answer: The computer operator attributed his bad back to this — A FLOPPY DISC

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY SEPTEMBER 12, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: Be more direct where monetary matters are concerned, especially where benefactors and family associates are a factor. Be careful of one who has an eye on your assets or wants to borrow from you.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Find the best way to get out of some confusing condition in the morning and later you can study new interests, but don't commit yourself as yet.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Don't be too generous with friends today. Your feelings could have you quite mixed up if you don't use your common sense.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Take risks with your good name in the morning. You will find that your friends are not available when you need them.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) Avoid someone in the morning who wants to interfere with your job. Wait until later to discuss ideas with your boss.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) Arguing with one in trade could get you into trouble in the morning. You would rather be less dependent upon others but be gracious about it.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Don't argue with a partner and avoid trouble in the morning. You have to be more tactful and diplomatic with others around you to avoid problems.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Although there can be delays, keep busy at tasks. Perseverance is the keynote now to your success at whatever is your endeavour.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Don't irritate your mate in any way in the morning. Take any health treatments which you may need. Become a more dynamic individual.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Help a close tie who may be disturbed about some matter in the morning. Recreation may be too costly, so forget it. Strive to have greater security.

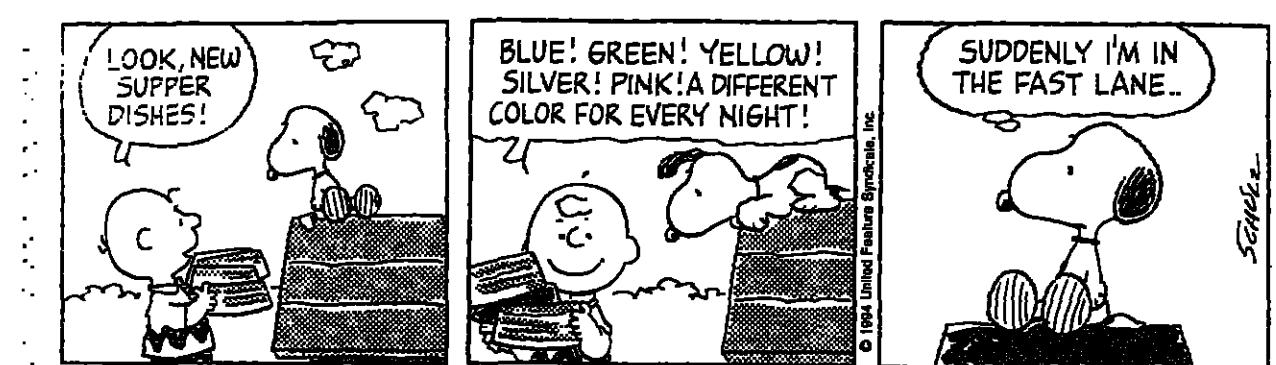
CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) Be calm in any conversations with others. Don't drive if it isn't necessary. Use care with all your financial affairs today.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Do not begin the week with lavish spending or unwise investments. Think about how you can increase your income. Be happy in the evening.

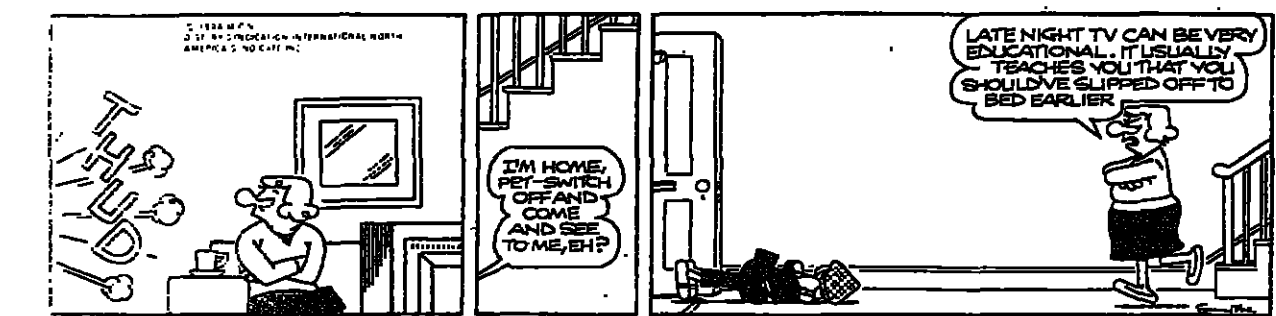
PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) Don't try to be forceful in gaining your aims in the morning. Analyse your position. Know what you want in life and strive to achieve it.

Birthstone of September: Sapphire — Lapis Lazuli

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Privalova helps Europe to victory

LONDON (AP) — Running as a last-minute substitute, Irina Privalova of Russia became the most successful athlete at this year's World Cup with a come-from-behind victory on the home stretch Sunday in the 400 metres.

Privalova, who specialises in shorter distances, trailed African record-holder Fatima Yusuf of Nigeria and world champion Jean Miles of the United States at the 300-metre mark before overhauling the pair to take the race in 50.62. Yusuf clocked 50.80 and Miles was third in 51.24.

"Of course I'm tired, but because I'm a sprinter I can run the last 100 metres faster than the others," said Privalova, who also won the 100 metres on Saturday and was second in the 200 on Friday.

The European 100- and 200-metre champion, Privalova answered the call to run in the 400 when European champion Marie-Jose Percec of France withdrew with a leg injury.

"My coach told me last

night at 10 'clock I was going to run, and I said "Okay, no?" said the Russian, who said her only previous 400-metre race was as part of a relay team.

Privalova scored 23 points over the weekend to help European women to a run-away victory in the three-day, finals-only team event.

Europe, the overwhelming favourite coming into the competition, took the World Cup women's title with 111 points. The Americans finished second with 98 and Germany third with 79.

Also as expected, Africa took the men's title, overcoming a late charge from Britain which included world champion Frankie Fredericks' defeat to John Regis in the men's 200.

Running in lane one, Regis, silver medalist at last year's worlds, effectively won the race at the start when he was the fastest runner out of the blocks and Fredericks the slowest.

Fredericks was unable to

make up the deficit, clocking 20.55 to Regis' 20.45.

It was a rare defeat on the track for Africa, which picked up another victory when Ibrahim Lahje of Algeria won the 4,000 in 13 minutes, 27.96 seconds.

Africa took the World Cup with 116 points to Britain's 111 and the Americas' 95.

Tony Jarrett scored another victory for the home team in the 110-metre hurdles as he more than made up for the absence of his teammate, world and Olympic champion Colin Jackson. Jarrett led from start to finish, clocking 13.23.

Jarrett, runner-up to Jackson at the World Championships, European Championships and Commonwealth Games, was called up last week when Jackson withdrew with a stomach virus.

Other British winners were Steve Backley, whose throw of 85.02 metre (278 feet-11 inches) took the javelin, and the 1600-metre relay quartet of David McKenzie.

Hill wins Italy's Monza car race

MONZA, Italy (AP) — Damon Hill put himself back in the Formula One world championship race Sunday, beating Gerhard Berger by 4.9 seconds to win the Italian Grand Prix and cut idle Michael Schumacher's standings lead virtually in half.

It was the seventh career victory for the British Williams-Renault driver, who celebrated his 34th birthday last Sunday, and his second straight at Monza.

After pole sitter and early front runner Jean Alesi was eliminated on the 15th lap because of transmission problems, Hill got past Berger midway through and then held off a late charge from the Briton on the last lap.

The victory chopped Schumacher's 21-point lead over Hill coming into the race to 11. Schumacher was forced to sit this race — and will be out of the Portuguese Grand Prix

in two weeks — following his loss of an appeal for a two-race ban for ignoring a black flag at Silverstone.

Berger only managed second place after the engine in the second Williams driven by David Coulthard suddenly died on the last curve — the Parabolica. Coulthard was running second but watched Berger and three others flash past.

Coulthard finished sixth while the second place gave the throng of Italian Ferrari fans some small consolation after Alesi had to park his car.

Finland's Mika Hakkinen was third in his McLaren-Peugeot, 25.6 seconds behind Hill, who completed 53 laps or 307.4 kilometre (191.009 miles) race in 1 hour, 18 minutes, 2.754 seconds at an average speed of 236.322 kph (146.875 mph).

Sievinen sets record at World Swimming Championships

ROME (Agencies) — Finland's Jari Sievinen set a world record for the 200 individual medley at the World Swimming Championships Sunday, swimming 1:58.16 to beat the 3-year-old mark of 1:59.36 set by Tamas Darnyi at the last championships in Perth.

Sievinen was inside the world mark when he reached halfway, after the butterfly and backstroke legs, in 56.61 with American competitor Greg Burgess in pursuit, 0.35 behind.

The Finn, who was second when U.S. swimmer Tom Dolan broke Darnyi's 400 medley record on Tuesday, increased his lead down the breaststroke leg and was well clear at the finish.

Burgess took the silver medal in 2:00.86 and Hungary's Attila Czere collected the bronze.

Meanwhile, the United States completed a clean sweep of synchronised swimming at the championships when they took gold in the team event Sunday.

Lead by Becky Dyroen Lancer, who won the solo event and then the duet with Jill Sudduth earlier this week, the U.S. put on a riveting performance to Spanish flamenco music to earn 11 perfect 10s for a total of 185.884 points.

Canada, who took bronze in the solo and duet events behind Japan, scored 183.263 to snatch silver from Japan, who totalled 183.215. Russia

were fourth with 182.953.

On Saturday, Olympic champions Italy beat Spain 10-5 to take the gold medal in the men's water polo.

Russia snatched the bronze from Croatia but lived dangerously before mounting a dramatic comeback in extra time to win 14-13.

Italy led 3-2 after the first period and then coasted to victory with thousands of home fans cheering them on.

They scored five unanswered goals in the second period before protecting the lead with the help of goalkeeper Francesco Attolico.

Italy beat Spain in the final at the 1992 Barcelona Olympics after three double periods of extra time.

Angry Chinese coach blasts West over doping allegations

ROME (AFP) — Allegations of doping against China's women swimmers are the product of western jealousy and anti-Asian racism, according to one of the men behind the country's great leap forward in the sport.

"The doping problem is political now," national coach Zhou Ming said after watching his 4x100m medley relay team smash two world records in one race Saturday night.

"Sport has traditionally been an area in which the West has dominated and they just cannot tolerate Asians being good in sport."

"Economically we are still behind but it is only a matter of time before we catch up. It's the same in sport."

Zhou also claimed that the doping claims — fuelled by the parallels between China's sudden emergence as a swimming superpower and East Germany's pharmaceutically-driven rise in the 1970s — were based on ignorance of China as a society and the new training methods developed by Chinese coaches.

"As a coach I travel around the world and we are always asked questions about doping," he said. "I can say that western critics know hardly anything about the training going on in China. They just make guesses."

They're not aware of the tremendous changes that have taken place in China over the last few years."

The presence of some doping in Chinese swimming has been confirmed by positive tests this year for Zhong Weiyue and Ren Xin, both top class international com-

petitors.

But while international federation officials privately express concern that these simply represent the tip of a doping iceberg, testing of gold medal winners and world record breakers at the Barcelona Olympics, the world shortcourse championships last year, and, so far, here in Rome, has failed to produce a solitary positive test.

Western coaches are openly dismissive of Zhou's suggestion that China might have outstripped them in the quality of their swimming training.

"I would like not to be convinced about doping," British coach Dave Haller, who was one of the first to raise the issue when he was in charge of Hong Kong at the Asian Games in 1990.

"I just can't see any other way to come from oblivion to total domination of the world in such a short space of time. It has all the hallmarks of East Germany unfortunately."

The revolutionary training argument is also difficult to square with the Chinese men's dismal lack of success.

Zhou, however, argues it is only a matter of time before the men start to match their training partners.

"In terms of stature our women are closer to westerners than the men. Then the fact that they train with the men is probably more beneficial for them than for the men," Zhou said.

"There also might be a psychological problem because the men are not used to winning international com-

petitions. But the men's times have improved a lot over recent years and I'm sure over the next three to four years you'll see them having the same success as their female counterparts."

All the evidence, however, suggests the Chinese men have got a long march ahead of them.

While the women went into Sunday's last night of finals with nine of the 13 swimming medals to have been decided, the men have yet to get within a splash of a medal here.

Saturday's medley relay triumph was the perfect illustration of the Chinese strength in depth that has prompted predictions of a clean sweep of all the women's medals at the Atlanta Olympics two years from now.

The oldest of the four swimmers, Le Jingyi, is only 19. Three of the four — Le, He Cihong (who broke the 100m backstroke record on the opening leg) and Liu Limin (fly) — had already won individual medals in their respective specialties, only a world record by Australia's Samantha Riley prevented 16-year-old Dai Guohong doing the same in the breaststroke.

As well as He's record — on the only leg which counts for individual records — the relay saw Le clocked \$3.81sec for the closing 100m free, comfortably inside the world record of 54.01 she set last week.

Saturday's finals also saw Lu Bin, who twice went under existing world records only to finish with silver in the 100m and 200m freestyle, finally strike gold with victory in the 200m individual medley.

Russian sprint Tsar Alexander Popov, once again upstaged by the Chinese women, claimed his own second and Russia's fourth gold in the 50m free.

Popov's win in the one-length dash, in a time of 22.17sec, means he now has 50m and 100m world titles to go with his two Olympic golds.

Modahl camp hits out at IAAF

LONDON (R) — Diane Modahl's lawyer has claimed her right to a fair hearing is being prejudiced by what she sees as a failure by the athletics world governing body to answer "straightforward questions."

Details of a letter, sent to the chairman of the International Amateur Athletic Federation's (IAAF) medical committee, Professor Arne Ljungqvist, by the British athlete's solicitor Anthony Morton-Hooper, were made public Sunday.

But the IAAF hit back immediately, regretting what it interpreted as another breach of confidentiality.

Modahl was sent home from the Commonwealth Games last month after failing a drugs test in June. She has since been suspended from athletics pending a full hearing.

Morton-Hooper claims Sunday he sent faxes to the general secretary of the IAAF Sept. 2 and 6 but has yet to receive a reply.

Among the information requested was:

— Up-to-date accreditation of the sampling officer in charge and of the laboratory in Lisbon which tested Modahl's sample given after a meeting in June.

— Full details of the entire chain of custody of the sample with supporting documentation.

— An explanation of the delay between June 18 when the sample was taken and Aug. 24 when the British Athletic Federation (BAF) first received notification of the test result.

The IAAF have also been asked to disclose full test results following analysis of the B sample and to deliver



Diane Modahl

the rest of the B sample to Modahl's medical advisers.

Modahl, whose testosterone ratio registered 42 times greater than average, has been suspended pending a BAF hearing.

"My client has the right to prepare her case for the hearing," says Morton-Hooper in his letter. "In order to prepare and conduct that case she is entitled to have basic material and relevant facts established."

"The failure by the IAAF and others to answer straight-

forward questions raised by me reflects either an unwillingness or an inability to do so and therefore is a failure which prejudices my client's right to a fair hearing."

But the IAAF criticised the Modahl camp for making the letter public.

Spokesman Christopher Winner said: "It has exacerbated the already abnormal circumstances surrounding this case."

"We are attempting to respect the confidentiality rules which have been so regularly shattered in the past few weeks."

"The IAAF has no choice but to refer the letter to its own legal advisers for examination."

"Unfortunately, rather than helping expedite the process, this in fact retards it. The athlete and the British federation will receive all the time and the information they require."

"But we too require the same time to ensure that every piece of data regarding this case is air-tight."

Cezanne in Group One glory

LEOPARDSTOWN, Ireland (R) — Gursy colt Cezanne, who started the season in handicaps, progressed to Group One glory Saturday with a narrow victory in the Irish Champion Stakes.

Patiently ridden by big-race specialist Michael Kinane, Cezanne (7-2) edged out 11-4 joint favourite and long-time leader Del Deyla by a neck in a thrilling finish.

John Gosden, who trains Del Deyla, the mount of Frankie Dettori, also saddled Muhtarram, the other joint favourite, who crossed the line in third place at the end of the 10 furlong (2-km) test.

But 1993 winner Muhtarram and jockey Willie Carson were judged to have bumped Grand Lodge, the mount of Cash Asmussen, and were relegated to fourth place in favour of Grand Lodge.

Unhappy Carson was handed a three-day suspension but said: "It's ridiculous. I was directly behind Cezanne until he drifted to the left and that left a gap which I went for but was certainly not helped by Grand Lodge."

"I was third on merit, and they have rubbed salt into the wound by banning me as well as denying my horse third prize, which he won on merit."

Cezanne, trained by Michael Stoute, made the most of the yielding ground to win for the third time in his last four outings.

Newmarket-based Stoute was at Doncaster where Sacramento, his fancied runner in the St. Leger, flopped badly, but Cezanne's success was a handsome recompense.

The trainer's racing manager Simon Crisford said: "Cezanne continues to improve all the time. We knew he was a special horse when he won five times in Dubai over the winter and he proved himself once more today."

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WEEKLY BRIDGE QUIZ

Q.1—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠K109 ♠A972 ♣Q85 ♣K94

Partner opens the bidding with one diamond. What do you respond?

Q.2—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠88542 ♠6 ♣K6 ♣AJ762

The bidding has proceeded: North East South West

1 ♣ Pass 1 ♣ Pass

2 ♣ Pass 2 NT Pass

What action do you take?

Q.3—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠J1065 ♠AK987 ♣A83 ♣6

The bidding has proceeded: North East South West

1 ♣ Pass 1 ♣ Pass

1 ♣ Pass 2 NT Pass

What do you bid now?

Q.4—Neither vulnerable, as South you hold:

♠94 ♠J9762 ♣AJ1085 ♣K7

The bidding has proceeded: North East South West

1 ♣ Pass 1 ♣ Pass

1 ♣ Pass 2 NT Pass

What action do you take?

Q.5—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠K10875 ♠Void ♣K984 ♣Q863

Partner's three-heart preemptive opening bid gets passed to you. What action do you take?

Q.6—As South, vulnerable, you hold:

♠K10875 ♠Void ♣K984 ♣Q863

Partner's three-heart preemptive opening bid gets passed to you. What action do you take?

U.S. baseball players, owners continue talks

NEW YORK (R) — Striking Major League Baseball players and owners met in small groups Saturday but there was no sign of significant progress towards settling their contract dispute and saving the 1994 season.

As the strike entered its fifth week, negotiations were also in a limbo period between the passing of a Friday deadline set by acting commissioner Bud Selig and an announcement he said he would make early next week about the rest of the season and postseason.

The Chicago Tribune reported Saturday that Selig, owner of the Milwaukee Brewers, had already decided to cancel the rest of the season and would make the official announcement Monday in Milwaukee.

Players' union chief Donald Fehr said he was not involved in any of Saturday's meetings but I was told nothing of significance happened. That's about it. We're waiting for whatever day next week Bud decides to make his announcement.

The owners' chief negotiator, Richard Ravitch, also was not involved in the talks. He attended the U.S. Open tennis tournament.

Said the Toronto Blue Jays' veteran player Paul Molitor: "Until they tell us the curtain has been absolutely pulled down on this season I'm going to try to maintain the perspective that if we continue to try to push ideas maybe something eventually will fly."

"While the hope is minimal I think that's your obligation, to continue to try to do that despite the rumours saying that the season indeed will be closed on Monday."

Atlanta Braves official Stan Kasten said: "I don't know if these meetings are over or not, but everyone has been alerted to go back again Monday."

Players said the meetings focused on player benefits and did not deal with the salary cap dispute which is the major stumbling block the negotiations. The players have said they cannot accept a limit on salaries.

RACJ organises rallytour Friday

AMMAN (J.T.) — The third round of the Zanussi Rallytour will be held Friday Sept. 16, 1994. This round is one of four rounds of rallytour sponsored by Zanussi during 1994. Registration to compete will be open until 9 p.m. Wednesday Sept. 14 and drivers briefing on the rallytour will be held at 7:00 p.m. Wednesday whereas the list of competitors will be announced Thursday.

The rallytour is part of

Jordan's 1994 Drivers Championship. The winner of the first place will get 16 points whereas the second and third will get 13.5 points and 12 points respectively. The Royal Automobile Club of Jordan (RACJ) said it welcomes Jordanians and veteran drivers to compete in the rallytour especially since it will be held on paved public roads within legal speed limits and no modifications on standard cars are required to qualify the cars.

Top seeds pull through 1st day's play at Forte Grand

AMMAN (J.T.) — An impressive line-up of the best international players in Amman began their week-long fight for the championship titles at the Forte Grand Diplomatic Tennis Tournament Saturday.

First to play was 4th seed Ehab Shehadeh who proved his ranking by eliminating new-comer Domingo Jimenez in straight sets.

Top seeds Fredrick Detrez, Tae in Lee and Terry Zimmermann pulled through the first round with ease, each proving too

strong for their opponents.

The match which proved the crowd puller of the day was fought between non seeds Alistair Philip and Mazher Al Jazirah who were determined to entertain the spectators with dazzling play that sent cheers around the court for the British victor Alistair Philip.

Second day's play starts at 4:00 p.m. tomorrow and promises to add more excitement in the early stages of the Forte Grand tournament.

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Sanchez Vicario overcomes first-set rout to beat Graf, take U.S. Open crown

NEW YORK (AP) — Arantxa Sanchez Vicario's never-give-up attitude turned a first-set thrashing into a three-set victory Saturday and her first U.S. Open women's singles championship.

The scrambling Sanchez Vicario blunted the vaunted power of Graf to become the first Spanish woman to win the U.S. title 1-6, 7-6, (7-3), 6-4.

"She played more aggressive at times than I did," Graf said. "She is somebody who tries for every point, even if she's down, like today."

"She never gives up."

The energetic Sanchez Vicario didn't give up Saturday until she had won her second Grand Slam title this year. She captured the French Open in June. Graf's only Grand Slam tournament win in 1994 was the Australian Open in January.

"I'm happy I'm there," Sanchez Vicario said. "I won two Grand Slams but I'm still no. 2 and Steffi is still no. 1" on the computer rankings.

Two Spanish men — Manuel Santana in 1965 and Manuel Orantes in 1975 — have won the U.S. men's singles. The victory also gives Spain three of the four Grand Slam women's titles this year. Conchita Martinez won Wimbledon in July.

The victory was worth \$550,000 to Sanchez Vicario, the biggest payday in tennis and equal to the men's prize money.

Graf, who won here on the hardcourts of the National Tennis Centre last year, appeared as if she would breeze to her fourth U.S. Open crown. She roared through the opening set in just 22 minutes, winning 20 of the 24 points in the last four games. Sanchez Vicario made the mistake of trading big strokes with one of the

biggest hitters in women's tennis, and she paid for it.

The Spaniard had only one winner in the first set while committing 10 unforced errors.

Graf, however, wasn't just good; she hit every line, and usually the outside of the line, as she rolled up game after game. In the 11th game, for example, her backhand service return skidded off the baseline for a winner to make it 15-40. She closed out the break on the next point when her service return, which hit right at the baseline, was returned long.

"She was playing very well and I was a little bit tentative," Sanchez Vicario said of the opening set.

But it wasn't her luck that changed. It was the way Sanchez Vicario changed her tactics and began forcing the issue instead of trading thunderbolts from the baseline.

"In the second set, I started making some easy mistakes," Graf said.

Sanchez Vicario moved the ball around the court, slicing it, dicing it, sometimes hitting topspin, never giving Graf the same type of ball twice, trying to keep the German's feared forehand from becoming the dominant weapon it usually is.

It worked, instead of hitting winners, Graf started pounding out unforced errors. She finished with 46 unforced errors, 10 more than Sanchez Vicario. And while Graf had only eight unforced errors in the opening set, she had 19 in each of the next two.

After trading service breaks in the third and fourth games of the second set, the two battled into a tiebreak after Graf staved off three set points to hold serve in the 10th game.

Again the two women

found it difficult to hold serve in the tiebreaker — at one point, four consecutive points went against serve. But Sanchez Vicario, helped by two Graf unforced errors, built a 6-3 lead, then pulled even when Graf buried a forehand in the bottom of the net for yet another unforced error.

The tempo picked up in the final set. There were breaks of service in the first, second, fifth and sixth games. After they held — Graf at 30, Sanchez Vicario at 15 — it was time for Graf to serve again.

This time, Sanchez Vicario smash pulled her even at 15-all. She won the next point, then the next when she rifled a forehand down that line that Graf got a racket on, but couldn't control. When Graf double-faulted, Sanchez Vicario had the final service break she needed and a 5-4 lead.

Graf, who aggravated her injured back in the eighth game of the middle set, didn't go away quietly. She fought off two match points and twice had break point.

But Saturday, it was Sanchez Vicario who captured the trophy and the bigger check. This time, it was Graf who sailed a backhand long on the third match point.

"I think it was a close match, which is why the people got excited and into it," Graf said. "It wasn't an exceptional level, a great match."

It was only the fifth loss this year for Graf, but three of them came in Grand Slam tournaments. It was the sixth time the two have met this year and the third time Sanchez Vicario has won. Ironically, Graf's three wins have been in straight sets while Sanchez Vicario has won the third time they have played three sets.



Arantxa Sanchez Vicario

Agassi, Stich reach U.S. Open final

NEW YORK (AFP) — Andre Agassi moved within a match of becoming only the third unseeded player ever to win the U.S. Open tennis championships here Saturday with a semifinal victory over ninth-seeded Todd Martin.

Agassi, who came into the Open unseeded for the first time in seven years, beat Martin 6-3, 4-6, 6-2, 6-3.

In the final he'll play world number four Michael Stich of Germany, who beat Czech Karel Novacek 7-5, 6-3, 7-6 (7/4).

Martin was playing in his third Grand Slam semifinal of the year. But he was destroyed by unforced errors, making 60 to Agassi's 16.

Agassi said the blustery winds on stadium court may

have contributed to Martin's troubles.

"The wind was a factor to my advantage," said Agassi, whose game does not rely on a big serve. "He takes such big chances, it caused a lot of unforced errors on his part."

"When the ball is constantly moving around, you've got to be able to adjust to that ball at the last second," he added. "Footwork is the number one key in the wind. I keep telling myself just keep moving your feet and don't go for the lines."

Agassi, who was beaten by Pete Sampras in his only previous trip to the U.S. Open final, in 1990, made only 16 unforced errors, though he did not take advantage of all of his opportunities, converting just six of his 14 break points.

In the eighth game he needed four break points before Martin sailed a backhand over the baseline to give Agassi a 5-3 lead.

Agassi, who played just 13 tournaments last year because of a wrist injury finally corrected by surgery, would be the first unseeded player since Fred Stolle in 1966 to win the U.S. men's singles title.

On his way to the final he has beaten four seeded players: Third-seeded Sergi Bruguera of Spain, the French Open champion, sixth-seeded Michael Chang, 12th-seeded South African Wayne Ferreira and number 13 Thomas Muster of Austria.

"This is the greatest feeling in the world," said Agassi, whose ranking fell as low as 30 last year. "It was time for me to come out and prove that I could play these guys."

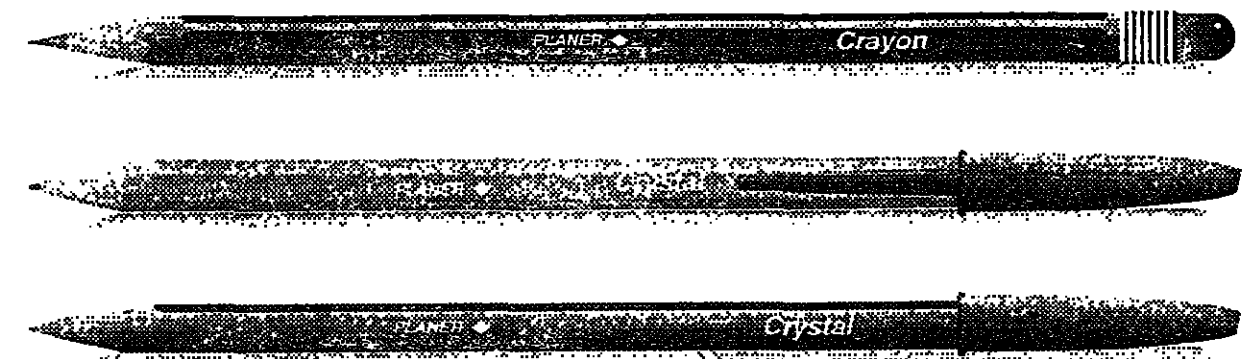
Stich's victory over Novacek, ranked 56th in the world, was a vindication for the 1991 Wimbledon champion.

He had not moved past the second round in his last four Grand Slam tournaments.

Stich also broke something of U.S. Open jinx. The only time he had gotten past the second round here was in 1991, when he lost in the quarterfinals to Ivan Lendl.

He closed out the third-set tie-breaker with his 14th ace of the match.

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Yemen wants to boost trade with Jordan but cites transport problem

'Generations of Yemenis will not forget Jordan's stand during crisis' — Iryani

By P.V. Vivekanand

YEMEN ATTACHES high importance to its relations with Jordan and would like to increase cooperation in various fields with the Kingdom, but problems of transportation is a major factor that depresses its imports of Jordanian products, according to Abdul Karim Iryani, the Yemeni planning minister.

Dr. Iryani also cast doubt on prospects for reviving the Arab Cooperation Council (ACC), which was formed in 1989 grouping Yemen with Jordan, Egypt and Iraq but went dormant in the wake of the Gulf crisis triggered by the August 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

Describing Jordanian-Yemeni relations as "more than excellent," Dr. Iryani, in an interview with the Jordan Times also paid tribute to the Kingdom's stand in support of Yemeni unity during the two-month civil war that ended in July.

"The tremendous support that Yemen received from Jordan during the attempted secessionist war was number one in the Arab World," said the minister. "Jordan and Qatar have been the staunchest supporters of Yemeni unity among all the Arab countries."

"That is a fact that generations of Yemeni people will never forget," he added.

On the economic front, the level of Jordanian-Yemeni relations in terms of "trade and tourists, medical services and all available in Jordan, which are of very high quality, is high," Dr. Iryani said. "Yemenis are making very good use of it."

While Yemen would like to expand trade with Jordan and offer "preferential treatment" to Jordanian

products, the "rarity" of shipping links with the Kingdom pose a problem, he noted.

"One of the main obstacles is transportation, which is a very expensive element in trade with Yemen, not only for Jordan but for practically every country," he said. "Overland transport is not yet possible between Jordan and Yemen and that's another problem," he noted in an implicit reference to Saudi restrictions on transit through Saudi territory.

"However, taking all these constraints into consideration, one must express satisfaction of the level of exchange of goods and services between Yemen and Jordan," Dr. Iryani added.

No definite figure was immediately available for Jordanian-Yemeni trade, but it was estimated at less than \$30 million in 1993.

Many Jordanian consumer products are exported to Yemen and could be seen in the Sanaa market. But in terms of prices, they do not have a competitive edge, given the dumping of similar items from other countries in the region, particularly Egypt and Turkey.

Asked how he viewed prospects for a revival of the ACC, Dr. Iryani implicitly criticised Egypt for its announcement last year that it was quitting the council. "The events that took place in the last four years would require a reconsideration of the whole concept, especially after the withdrawal of Egypt under some political pretext," he said.

"Once Iraq is relieved from the international economic sanctions, everyone in the world, including Egypt," will want to do business with that country, he pointed out.

"Iraq is a very important

and rich country in terms of the diversity of its resources and perhaps even the richest among the Arab countries," he said. "Whether it comes in terms of the (Arab) Cooperation Council or on the bilateral basis, I think Iraq will be sought by all countries in and out of the region."

"The question of how to economically cooperate with the Iraqi government and the Iraqi people is an issue of every individual government to decide upon," the minister said. "It is only natural that Yemen will also seek cooperation, but it does not mean that the only way to cooperate is the ACC."

"So the lifting of the sanctions, the timing of the lifting and the conditions under which Iraq comes up will play a determining role in economic cooperation between Iraq and any other country, including Yemen, Jordan, Egypt and others."

Apart from Jordan, Yemen is the only other Arab country where Iraqis are allowed free entry. Thousands of Iraqis live and work in Yemen and many Iraqi businessmen have made Yemen their base.

According to other highly-placed Yemeni sources and diplomats, Iraqis and Jordanians are given special treatment in Yemen, which mostly continues to abide by the relaxations offered under resolutions adopted by the ACC.

"In fact, the Jordanian and Iraqi diplomatic missions in Sanaa have the stronger influence in the Yemeni government among all Arab countries,"

(Continued on page 7)

The writer, a member of the Jordan Times staff, has just returned after a visit to the Republic of Yemen.

Heatwave here to stay for the week

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The heatwave presently affecting Jordan is expected to persist until Friday or Saturday, the Meteorological Department said Sunday.

The depression which has caused high temperatures unusual in Jordan for this time of year is due to a "seasonal trough" which is coming from India, moving across Iraq and into Arabia, a department official said.

This depression has raised temperatures in Jordan and the surrounding region as far west as the Eastern Mediterranean and is an extension of the low pressure currently over India, Mohammad Al Batayneh, a weather forecaster, explained.

September normally brings more comfortable temperatures in Jordan, typically a maximum of 31 degrees Centigrade in Amman. On Sunday the capital registered 34 degrees

while Aqaba endured 39 and the Jordan Valley 40 degrees.

The temperature is likely to increase, reaching 35 degrees in Amman during the week and a gradual decline is expected over the weekend to that more characteristic of the seasonal average, Mr. Batayneh said.

"Although it is unpleasant at the moment," he added, "the humidity will remain at normal levels because the weather track has passed over land rather than sea."

According to Mr. Batayneh, air quality in Amman will not be noticeably worsened because pollution levels here do not reach levels found in other metropolises where discomfort is heightened during hot spells.

Minimum temperatures for the next few days were forecast to be: Amman 20; Aqaba 27 and the Jordan valley 25 degrees Centigrade.

Subversion suspects create stir in court

Suspect retracts confession

AMMAN (AP) — Pandemonium broke out Sunday at a State Security Court when one of 25 suspects on trial for alleged subversion interrupted the prosecution to retract a confession he had made during pre-trial interrogation.

Hafez Amin, an army colonel presiding over the three-man tribunal, ordered the defendant out of the courtroom after he defied orders to be quiet.

The other defendants began shouting slogans challenging the jurisdiction of the court. Col. Amin promptly adjourned the two-hour session until Monday.

After the uproar, the upholders of several seats in the dock and in rows of the audience were found torn. Court officials could not nail down the culprits.

The defendants are known as "Arab Afghans," a reference to their voluntary role in the 1980-90 Afghan resistance against the Soviet occupation of that country.

They have been on trial since Aug. 27 in connection with a series of explosions and attempted bombings

which targeted movie theatres showing pornographic films, supermarkets and liquor stores in 1993 and earlier this year.

Twenty-two defendants are in custody. Three, including a Saudi Arabian and an Omani, are being tried in absentia. Under standing court orders, none of the men can be identified by name.

The men, who face the death penalty, have pleaded innocent.

Prosecutors have presented evidence that homemade explosives found at the homes of some of the suspects match those used in the blasts or uncovered before their detonation.

The prosecution claims the defendants were involved in a campaign to cleanse the predominantly conservative Muslim society here of Western values that contravene Islamic teachings.

They are also accused of plotting to assassinate Jordanian and Palestinian peace negotiators and attack American and Israeli interests in the region to sabotage the U.S.-backed Middle East peace process.

Rabbani foes score a gain

TAKHTASANG, Afghanistan

(AFP) — Coalition forces opposing Afghan President Burhanuddin Rabbani have scored a first major victory in months with the capture of the strategic northern town of Khenjan, increasing pressure on besieged Kabul.

Khenjan's capture gives the anti-Rabbani forces a significant advantage by cutting off a main supply route to Kabul from the border with Tajikistan.

With three other routes already in their control, all four main access roads to Kabul are now in the hands of forces loyal to Hezbe-Islami faction chief and ex-Premier Gulbuddin Hekmatyar and his allies.

Although their foes are now able to tighten a supply blockade of Kabul ahead of the winter, Mr. Rabbani's forces can still rely on airlifts of vital petrol from Herat through the Bagram airbase near the capital, while food and other goods have regularly poured into Kabul through smuggling from Hezbe-Islami areas.

A senior commander from the Rabbani camp said their forces had not been defeated at the district centre of Khenjan, but had retreated without loss of personnel or heavy weapons.



MIGRANTS' RIGHTS: Yenny Hurtado (left) from the confederation of Latin American, Mayan Villalba (Centre), from the Asian migrant Centre and Patrick Taran from

Geneva talk non-Governmental Organisation Forum in Cairo, a conference running parallel to the U.N. sponsored population and development meeting (AFP photo)

Scientists warn of environmental catastrophe, urge diversion of funds

From Mariam M. Shahn in Cairo

People and the environment are on a "collision course" and the international community should divert funds dedicated to war and violence towards saving the earth and humanity, says a special report presented by the Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS) to the U.N. Conference on Population and Development in Cairo.

"Human behaviour" is inflicting "harsh and often irreversible damage" on the environment and depleting important life sustaining resources, says the report, urging expansion of and application of the five points pertaining to the environment in the Cairo Population and Development charter expected to be ratified Tuesday.

If "vast human misery is to be avoided and our human home on this earth is not to be irretrievably mutilated," then immediate action must be taken by the world community, urges the report which was prepared by world renowned scientists.

The report warns that life as the human race knows it may be limited both for humans as well as the plant and animal kingdom if current consumption patterns and environmental practices continue.

The signatories on the UCS report include 104 scientists who include Nobel laureates and experts from institutes ranging from Brazil to China, including the Pontifical Academy of Sciences, which is the group of scientists which advises Pope John Paul on scientific matters.

"The earth is finite," states the report. "Its ability to absorb waste and destructive effluent is finite. Its ability to provide food and energy is finite. Its ability to provide for growing numbers is finite. And we are fast approaching many of the earth's limits. Current economic practices which damage the environment, in both developed and underdeveloped nations, cannot be continued without the risk that vital global systems will be damaged beyond repair."

"If we are to halt the destruction of our environment, we must accept limits to that growth," the report states.

"Resources now devoted to the preparation and conduct of war — amounting to over \$1 trillion annually — will be badly needed in the new tasks and should be diverted to the needed challenges," it says.

The Cairo conference is proposing a series of actions to be taken in relation to "population and the environment."

They include:

A) Measures to eradicate poverty, with special attention to income-generation and employment strategies directed at the rural poor and those living within or on the edge of fragile ecosystems,

B) More sustainable resource management, the modification of unsustainable consumption and production patterns through economic, legislative and administrative measures, also aimed at preventing environmental degradation.

C) Implementation of policies addressing the ecological implications of the increase in populations and

changes in concentration and distribution of populations.

The UCS urges the international community to go a bit further and take the following simultaneous steps:

1) Environmentally damaging activities, especially a move away from fossil fuels, must come to a halt.

2) A more effective harnessing and managing of resources crucial to human welfare and survival must be found and implemented.

Efficient use of energy, water and other materials, including expansion of conservation and recycling must be introduced in all developing and developed countries.

3) Stabilisation of population, through improved social and economic conditions.

4) Reduction and moves towards total elimination of poverty.

5) Equal opportunities among peoples regardless of gender, race, creed, nationality or religious affiliation or physical handicap.

Citing developed countries as the most serious offenders in terms of overconsumption and exploitation of natural resources, the report urges the developed nations to take a lead and reduce their consumption patterns while providing assistance to the developing nations in attaining the above stated goals.

"We all have but one lifeboat," the report warns the developed nations. "No nation can escape from injury when global biological systems are damaged."

The greatest threat is to leave the downward spiral

unchecked, warns the report. "The greatest peril is to become trapped in spirals of environmental decline, poverty and unrest, leading to social, economic and environmental collapse."

Ozone depletion and the consequent increase in ultra-violet radiation, air pollution near ground level and acid precipitation are all already causing widespread damage to humans, crops and forests. Carbon dioxide releases from fossil fuel burning may alter climate on a global scale. The predictions about global warming are still uncertain with calculated effects ranging from tolerable to severe.

Depletion of finite water resources, haphazard exploitation of surface waters and pollution of rivers, lakes and oceans all limit water resources needed to sustain food production.

There are already water shortages in 80 countries which contain 40 per cent of the world's population.

The dumping of toxic, industrial, and other wastes as well as the overproduction and consumption of sea food are threatening the natural equilibrium of the oceans.

As a result of current practices in agriculture and animal husbandry there have been great losses in soil productivity.

Since 1945, 11 per cent of the world's vegetated surface has been degraded — an area larger than China and India combined. Per capita food production in many parts of the world is decreasing.

Forests, tropical temperate as well as rain forests are being destroyed rapidly

(Continued on page 7)

Iran warns Pakistan over Sunni Muslim extremism

TEHRAN (Agencies) — Iran's spiritual guide Ayatollah Ali Khamenei warned against Sunni Muslim "extremism" in a meeting here Sunday with Pakistani President Farooq Ahmad Leghari.

"There are hidden and destructive hands bent on destroying good relations" between Sunni Muslim Pakistan and Shiite Muslim Iran, he said.

"The anti-Shiite Sunni extremists are trying to harm the unity between the two nations."

But Ayatollah Khamenei stressed that Islam had created "deep bonds between the two countries and religious differences can not affect relations."

Tehran is concerned at security problems in the region posed by what it sees as extremist Sunni groups based in Pakistan.

One of these groups, the Sababa army, has been accused here of "terrorist" activities inside Iran, notably in the southeastern province of Sistan va Baluchestan bordering Pakistan.

The parliamentary speaker, Ali Akbar Nateq Nuri, warned in July against an "ethnic war" between the Shiites and the Sunnis in Pakistan and called on Islamabad to fight Sunni "extremism."

Tehran has also condemned attacks by the group on Pakistan's Shiite community.

Mr. Leghari, who arrived Saturday for a three-day offi-

London may accept IRA ceasefire as permanent

LONDON (Agencies) — British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd said Sunday that London was moving towards accepting the Irish Republican Army (IRA) ceasefire as permanent, nearly two weeks after the IRA announced a "complete cessation" of violence.

"There's been progress in the right direction, even in the last few days," Mr. Hurd said.

The IRA ceasefire took effect on September 1. Speaking to the BBC from the German resort of Usedom, where he was meeting with other European Union (EU) foreign ministers, Mr. Hurd said London remained "cautious" and was still waiting for "words and deeds" from the nationalists before accepting the ceasefire was durable.

But he stressed the IRA, which draws its strength from the province's Roman Catholic community, did not necessarily have to pronounce the word "permanent."

The British government was following the situation "day by day," but "we have to be cautious about the timing," he said.

The December 1993 Downing Street declaration by the British and Irish governments made a permanent three-month IRA ceasefire a basic condition for allowing the IRA's political wing, Sinn Fein, to join in talks on the future of Northern Ireland.

Dublin and Washington have already accepted that the ceasefire is intended as permanent but London, acutely aware of the need not to alienate Northern Ireland's deeply sceptical and pro-British Protestant community, has appealed to the Republicans to give more evidence of their intentions.

Questioned on the same BBC programme, Irish Foreign Minister Dick Spring said that the complete lack of IRA violence in the province since Sept. 1 was "an indication that the Irish government's interpretation of the situation is the correct one."

"I hope that as every day goes by without violence in Northern Ireland that both governments can come to the same solution," he said.

Mr. Hurd and Mr. Spring met at the EU foreign ministers meeting. The two later urged their EU colleagues to provide more development aid for Ulster.

Mr. Spring called the IRA agreement to halt its campaign against British rule of Northern Ireland "a historic new departure."

"Material support will be needed for the (economic) regeneration" of Ulster, Mr. Spring said in an address to EU ministers.



Arrests made in Tiffany jewel robbery

NEW YORK (R) — The city's security supervisor, who police said planned a \$1.9 million robbery from the famous jewelry store — and one of the store's guards were among six people arrested in the case. Four men, including the supervisor of the store's security guard and one of his staff, were charged Saturday with carrying out the raid at the famous Manhattan store, police said at a news conference. The other two men were charged with possession of stolen property after police recovered two bracelets and five rings from last Sunday's robbery. Police acted after a telephone tip that stolen gems were being hawked on Manhattan Streets at low prices. New York City Assistant Police Chief John Hill said the security guard supervisor, Scott Jackson, aged 51, planned the robbery. A large portion of the stolen jewelry was turned over to authorities by the fourth suspect, who turned himself in to police late Saturday, a police spokesman said. "We won't know if most of the jewelry has been recovered until Tiffany does an inventory," he said. Mr. Hill said police got a telephone tip that a man was pawning Tiffany rings near the Manhattan diamond and jewelry district "and selling them at very, very reduced prices." "The robbery was professionally planned but like all plans, it went awry," he added. Police said after the robbery that they suspected an inside job because the thieves avoided a jewelry case that was alarmed and knew about a videotape surveillance camera, taking the tape with them when they fled.

'Sewer rat' MPs raise a stink

WELLINGTON (AFP) —

Suggesting a member of New Zealand's parliament is using "sewer tactics" is alright, but call one a "sewer rat" and expect trouble. Parliamentary clerk David McGee, told the Evening Post here Saturday there used to be a list of unparliamentary terms, but it has not been used for about 20 years. The best guide now is to refer to various speaker's rulings. The speaker's ruling have banned "sewer rat" as a way of referring to a fellow MP but "sewer tactics" got approval. One can be accused of "blatantly untrue" comments, but not "deliberately untrue," and "cheating" is out of line. Also out of order is the accusation of "Quislingish treacherous behaviour," a reference to the Norwegian traitor of World War II.

Opposition MP Chris Carter was ordered out of the debating chamber for refusing to withdraw his claim that Minister of Tourism John Banks was a hypocrite. Later, Mr. Carter said he found it strange he could not call Mr. Banks a hypocrite, but it was apparently okay to suggest he was a wanker. Also used at least once in debate, but now outlawed, are calling another MP a "preaching little toad," a "silly, silly little twit," "mentally unbalanced" and "like the backbone of a jellyfish."

Duchess of York sought \$5m for royal novels

LONDON (AFP) — The Duchess of York, estranged wife of Britain's Prince Andrew, tried to sell two novels "on a royal theme" to U.S. publishers for \$5 million, but was told they would not be worth a tenth the price, the Sunday Times reported. The paper said the proposition was being hawked on her behalf by John Bryan, with whom she was photographed in compromising pose in south of France two years ago, but the only serious offer he could obtain was of \$400,000 "for a series of two or three mystery novels." The report said the duchess, the former Sarah Ferguson, had sacked Mr. Bryan and appointed a new literary agent but had still been unsuccessful. It quoted a New York publisher as saying, "I suspect she had vastly high expectations of her own worth. Even if she wanted to write her autobiography it is unlikely that anyone would pay her much more than \$500,000."